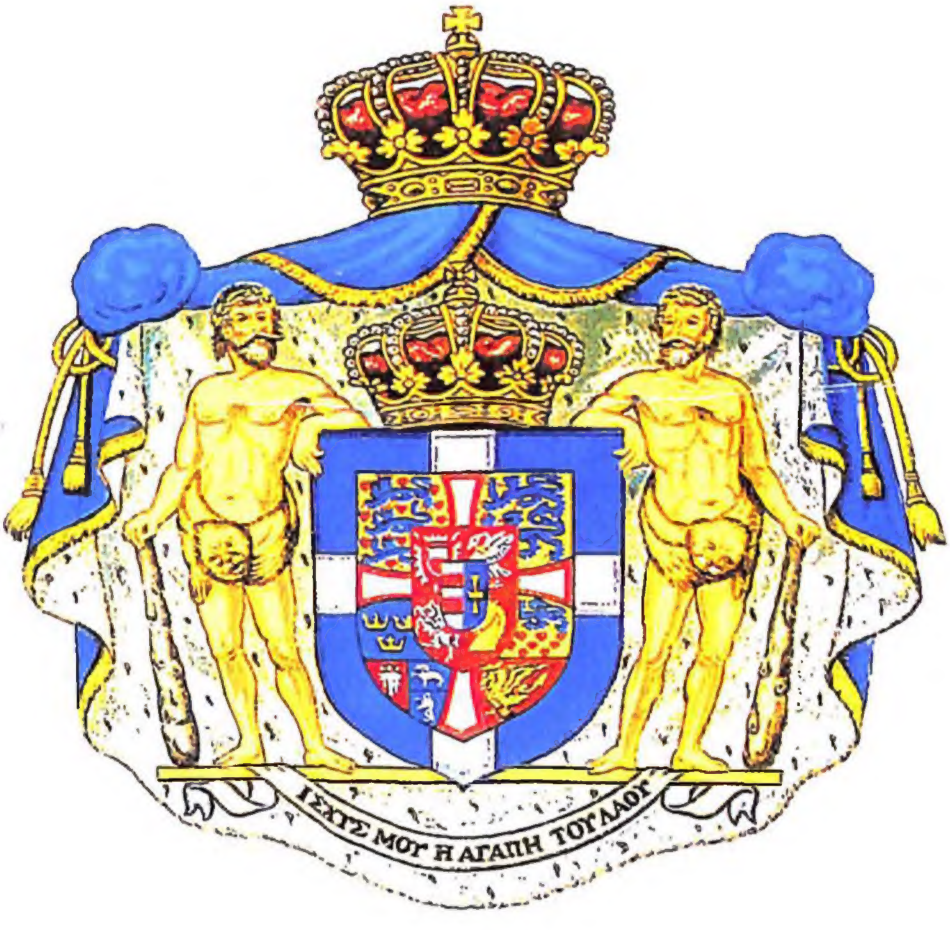
FREDERICA
QUEEN OF THE HELLENES



LILIKA S. PAPANICOLAOU


ΙΣΧΥΣ ΜΟΥ Η ΑΓΑΠΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΟΥ

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MISSION OF A MODERN QUEEN

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DEDICATION

This book is to the memory of my beloved husband, Sophocles, who helped me in writing it, and whose life was dedicated to his Country and its Kings.

I wrote this book because I felt that the young of today should learn about our history. I leave the reader to judge, whether our actions were right or wrong. One thing is absolutely certain, we were all guided by our convictions, our deep faith in God, our belief in love and by an overwhelming desire to save our Country and preserve its glorious heritage.

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16 Ἰουνίου 1994

Εὐγενεστάτην Κυρίαν
Λιλίκα Παπανικολάου
Ὁδός Δεξαμενῆς 56
Πολιτεία Κηφισιά
Ἀθήνα

Ἀγαπητή Κα Παπανικολάου,

Τό χριστιανικό ἑλληνορθόδοξο "ἆσμα ἀσμάτων" περνᾶ ἀνάμεσα ἀπό ὅλες τές σελίδες αὐτοῦ τοῦ πράγματι μνημειώδους ἔργου σας. Τό κάνει μνημειῶδες ὄχι μονάχα τό προσεκτικά διαλεγμένο καί ἄριστα διατυπωμένο περιεχόμενό του ἀλλά καί ἡ ποιητική πνοή καί λογοτεχνική πλοκή καί ἀλληλουχία τοῦ ὅλου κειμένου.

Σᾶς εὐχαριστῶ γιά τήν εὐκαιρία, πού μοῦ δώσατε νά τό διεξέλθω κεφάλαιο πρός κεφάλαιο καί νά συγκεφαλαιώσω τές ἐντυπώσεις μου καθώς καί τές ἀναμνήσεις μου ἀπό τή γνωριμία καί τές συζητήσεις, πού εἶχα κατά καιρούς μέ τήν ἀείμνηστη βασίλισσα, τήν ἀνθρωπιστή, πατριώτισσα, διανοουμένη καί μεγάλη Γυναῖκα, πού ἦταν ἡ Φρειδερίκη, πού ἔχει κλείσει στήν ἀγκαλιά της ἡ εὐγνώμονη ἑλληνική γῆ.

Πρῶτα ἀπό ὅλα προσφέρετε μιά περιγραφή μέ τό ὑπέροχο αὐτό βιβλίο σας ἑνός προσώπου μή ἑλληνικῆς καταγωγῆς, πού ἐν πολλοῖς ἄλλαξε τό πρόσωπο τῆς Ἑλλάδας, δίνοντάς της ἐθνική ἀξιοπρέπεια καί περηφάνεια. Δέν συνυθηκολογοῦσε μέ μικρότητες ἤ ἀνέντιμες σκοπιμότητες. Ἦταν βασίλισσα τοῦ λαοῦ, πού συναναστράφηκε, ἐγνώρισε, ἀγάπησε καί ἐπόνεσε. Εἶναι καιρός γιά τό σημερινό λαό νά ἐκτιμήσει τήν προσφορά της. Σ᾽αὐτή τήν ἀνάγκη ἀποκρίνεται καί ἀποτείνεται τό βιβλίο σας.

Σᾶς ἀνήκει εὐγνωμοσύνη καί τιμή πάγκοινη θά ἔλεγα. Καί εὔχομαι αὐτή νά ἀποδοθεῖ μέ τήν ὑποδοχή τοῦ βιβλίου σας καί τήν κυκλοφορία του ἀνάμεσα σέ ὅλους τούς Ἕλληνες.

Μέ βαθειά ἐκτίμηση καί φιλία

ΑΙ, ρπ

10 EAST 79TH STREET, NEW YORK 10021 • TEL: (212) 570-3500 • FAX (212) 861-2183

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΒΟΡΕΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΝΟΤΙΟΥ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

16 June 1994

Honourable Madam
Lilika Papanicolaou
Politia 14563 Athens

Dear Mrs. Papanicolaou

The Christian-Greek Orthodox "Song-of-Songs" is reflected on all the pages of your truly remarkable work. It is a memorable work, not only because of the carefully presented material, but also because of the poetic breath and literary plot and continuity.

I thank you for the opportunity you gave me to come through each of its chapters and to restore again in my mind my own impressions, memories of conversations, which I had at various times, with the ever-memorable Queen that humanist, patriot, intellectual and great Woman, who, was Frederica, whom the grateful Greek earth has taken into her embrace.

Firstly you offer through your excellent book a description of a person not of Greek origin, who changed in so many ways the face of Greece giving it a sense of National self-esteem and pride. She did not compromise with smallness or dishonest motives, she was a Queen of the people, a people she dealt with, came to know, love and whose pain she felt.

It is time for our contemporary public to appreciate her contribution. It is this need that your book responds and directs itself to.

I would say that gratefulness and honour from us all belong to you and I hope that these will be given to you by the reception of your book and the circulation among the Greeks.

With deep respect and friendship,

(signed A: Archbishop of North and South America Iacovos)
(translated from the original by Mrs L. Papanicolaou)

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

October 24, 1994

Mrs. Lilika Papanicolaou
Politia 14563 Athens

Dear Mrs. Papanicolaou:

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the publication of your biography of Queen Frederica of Greece....

... Knowing you as a talented painter it is indeed a pleasure to see you add "author" to your fine list of accomplishments. It is truly fitting that you have chosen to depict the life of Queen Frederica, who with her husband Paul, reigned at a very difficult period in Greece's history. I have the highest regard for Queen Frederica's son, King Constantine, and his family, and I am delighted that you have used your artist's brush to offer us a new portrait of the Queen.

With every good wish.

Ever sincerely

Claiborne Pell
Chairman of
United States Senate
Committee on Foreign Relations

PREFACE

ΜΗΤΡΟΣ ΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΤΡΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΝ ΑΛΛΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΟΝΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΩΝ: ΤΙΜΙΩΤΕΤΟΝ ΕΣΤΙ Η ΠΑΤΡΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΣΕΜΝΟΤΕΡΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΟΤΕΡΟΝ ΠΑΡΑ ΘΕΟΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΙΣ ΤΟΙΣ ΝΟΥΝ ΕΧΟΥΣΙ

ΠΛΑΤΩΝ

From mother and father and all forefathers, most honest and most sacred to Gods and Men, who are able to think, is the nation.

Plato

Through my paintings I am fortunately able to express my strong feelings for beauty. A beauty which lies both within and without. Paintings through which I depict the ethereal, mystic power of space. Art which has brought an era and a person to my thoughts, like the music of a long forgotten age. The era was the dramatic years of the Second World War, the violent Communist insurrection which followed, the restoration of the Monarchy and the ensuing peace and reconciliation. The personality was Frederica, Queen of the Hellenes. A controversial figure, who has puzzled many people, and a woman who revived pride and patriotism in the hearts of the Greeks of that time.

I do not pretend to be a creative writer, and do not intend to add yet another biography of a Queen. Nevertheless, the conflicting portraits of Queen Frederica demand consideration. She was a descendant of some of the most powerful and influential heads of state of Europe. Her line encompassed Queen Victoria, the Tsars of Russia and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. Emperors, Kings and Queens whose actions have been praised and criticised by historians, but rulers nonetheless, who all left their mark on our modern world......

In this work I have sought to depict my version of events tempered by my own experiences, I have tried to avoid the influence of conflicting views, perhaps to a fault. Thus I would like to apologize to those, whose own knowledge could have added to this account. In particular, I ask the forbearance of the Queen's own family, in particular King Constantine of Greece, Queen Sofia of Spain and Princess Irene of Greece.

INTRODUCTION

I believe that we are all guided by destiny, and that frequently through some subconscious power we, ourselves, help create this destiny It was the power of Germany epitomised by the Kaiser that brought about the First World War. A War that took The United States of America out of its isolation, catapulting the country onto the world stage, and was thus responsible for making America a world power. This alone makes me feel that destiny demanded a figure such as Queen Frederica during that difficult decade between 1940 and 1950.

The events I describe are those that I have seen and through which I lived. Times and experiences that I shared with Frederica. What follows is the product of a continuous and intensive search into the personality of a Queen who loved Greece more than her own heritage. We must begin at the beginning and determine the nature and the character of the person. What sort of a woman was Queen Frederica ?

During her years in exile in London, she often visited my home, and we would spend long hours discussing religion, politics and the experiences that we had both shared. She would usually leave at about the time her grandchildren returned from school.

One day, whilst reminiscing about the crucial moments of the history of Greece, and the impact that politicians had during this period of crisis, she turned to me and spoke sadly of the criticism she had suffered over those years, because of her efforts to do what she thought was best for Greece. I then asked her if she regretted anything.

She answered: "I am not sorry about what I have done. I did everything because I believed in the new generation and I wanted to help. I loved my Country as I loved Palo."[1]

I thought about what she had just said, and speaking aloud my thoughts told her that if I had been a writer, I would write about her life. She turned to me with some displeasure, and told me that one day she would write her own story. Very concerned

that I had upset her I apologised by stating that I had no idea how to write a biography, and since there was little difference in age between us, perhaps, I would be first to die, and so there was no need for her to be concerned or upset. She gazed at me silently.

Expressing the wish to visit my studio, she made me describe the manner and style in which I paint, and the way in which I saw my work evolving. At this point her eyes fell on a poem that I had written, and she asked me to read it to her. The poem in question is called...

THE RIVER

In that stream that ever flows
The waters meet,
The waters run.
They gather and the river grows,
Their ripples glimmer
In the sun.

Like the stream's unceasing flow,
I also go
No turning do I know.
I ever go to find an end
Beyond the next wide bend.
To find upon my way
The swirls
of yesterday.
To find the eddies of the past
At rest at last
upon a lake's calm breast.

Is it a lake of peace,
Or death that gleams?
Or will life flow again
In other streams?

(Translated into English by Dr Stephanides)

In turn she read a short poem her grand-daughter, Alexia, had composed, expressing her amazement at the talent of such a young child, and so our conversation continued.

Next morning, however, she telephoned asking if she could meet me for lunch. We met at about eleven o'clock, and at her request drove back home. She carried a small shopping bag, after drinks she turned to me and said..

"I want to give you this package. It is sealed. You will return it on my request, sealed as it is now. If I should die first, then do with it as you wish."

"What happens if I die before you ?" I queried.

"If such a thing should happen, your husband, Sophocles, must return the package. You must ask Stelio Hourmouzios[2], to let you have all the material, I gave him whilst at Mon Repos[3] and at Psychiko[4], as well as copies of letters and other documents concerning myself and the Royal Family, which he has in his possession.
All of this material will make an interesting story."

The meaning of this was clear. Next morning I deposited the parcel in the bank. Sealed as it was. I had followed the Queen's instructions and had not looked at the contents.

That conversation took place in 1980. A year later Queen Frederica died of a heart attack after an eye operation.

I had almost forgotten the incident, when a few years later my husband told me that Stelio Hourmouzios was dying of cancer. This brought back to me, the conversation with Queen Frederica and her request to me. I asked my husband to remind Stelio of his promise to hand over the documents. The poor man had quite forgotten, and apologised for ignoring the late Queen's instructions. He sent his wife Iris to fetch them, a gesture I welcomed with deep and loving gratitude.

A moral obligation compelled me to sit down and start writing about this remarkable woman's life. A life that had passed like a powerful shooting star, so memorable but yet so quickly gone. I doubt that she would have lived differently if the choice had been hers. Of course she would have avoided the pain, of her later years, but this could never have been to the cost of her two enduring loves, her Palo and her Greece. The role that she had played in life was simply her destiny, that of being H.M. Frederica, Queen of the Hellenes.

NOTES

1. Palo was Frederica's nickname for her husband King Paul.
2. Stelio Hourmouzios was secretary to King George and King Paul. Author of a biography of King Paul.
3. Mon Repros on Corfu, later became the summer residence of the Greek Royal Family, and birthplace of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The house was reconstructed from the dowry of the Mountbatten family to Princess Alice when she married Prince Andrew of Greece.
4. Part of Athens where Queen Frederica lived immediately after her marriage to Crown Prince Paul of Greece.

CHAPTER ONE

The Early Years: 1938-1940

I remember it was a cold and rainy day that January 9th in the year 1938. I was at school at the Convent of the Ursulines on the Greek Island of Tinos.[1] That morning we were all ordered to wear our uniforms. A large crowd of teachers headed by the Mother Superior herself supervised the young girls of our school as we stood to attention whilst the Greek National Anthem played. We listened as the radio announced that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Greece, Paul, was marrying Her Royal Highness, Princess Frederica of Hanover, Princess of Great Britain and Ireland, Duchess of Brunswick.[2]

The young princess and future queen came to Greece at a crucial time in the history of the country. From the outset, her youth and outgoing personality had a magical effect on the entire country. Like so many others, I too, first became aware of this breath of fresh air that had come to Greece, during that royal wedding, so many years ago. At the time I was only a schoolgirl, but vividly recall that January day when I first heard of the Princess who would become an example for the young ladies of Greece, an example to follow.

From Macedonia to the islands, the entire population welcomed this beautiful Princess, celebrating the wedding with songs and hymns. Through the magic of radio we could sense the excitement of this royal occasion. The announcer set the scene, and then we heard loud applause and cheers as the coach with H.M. George II, King of the Hellenes and his younger brother Paul approached Athens Cathedral. The leading coach was followed by a procession of others carrying most of the crowned heads of Europe. The best man, a king himself, was Michael of Rumania. The ceremony in the magnificent Greek Orthodox Cathedral was reminiscent of full Byzantine splendour. The cheering was long and loud and the applause all pervasive.



Portrait of Princess Frederica by Lilika Papanicolau, 1938.

Whilst the radio beamed the happiness of the event from Athens to the furthest corner of Greece and beyond, how I envied all the people attending that ceremony, and how sorry I was to be a mere schoolgirl in Tinos, rather than a member of that congregation and so participate in a magnificent moment of our country's history.

The years that followed the first World War had been hard ones for Greece. The Turkish defeat of Greece in Asia Minor in 1922 led to an influx of over one million Greek refugees from Anatolia. King Constantine I was ousted by a revolutionary committee of army officers, and on September 6th 1922 went into exile. He abdicated in favour of his son George II, who became King. On April 13, 1924 the Greek Government held a plebiscite on the creation of a republic. The republic was approved by 69%. This occurred in spite of the fact the King had opposed the invasion of Asia Minor.

The next decade saw a dictatorship, coups and counter-coups, ineffective republican rule that soon made the Country regret its decision to abolish the monarchy. The world depression of 1929 was particularly hard for Greece. It depended on exports and the economy was crippled by the burden of supporting so many refugees. It was not until November 3rd 1935, that another referendum restored the monarchy, recalling King George II from his exile in London. King Constantine having died. Everyone hoped the Restoration would bring stability to the troubled country. The King did his best to insure his return brought about a spirit of reconciliation.

After all this turmoil came this beautiful Royal Wedding. Girls of my own age looked upon Frederica as our new leader. The bride on the Crown Prince's arm was twenty years old. We expected her to open up new horizons of beauty and happiness. In effect she was Greece's first lady, as King George II had divorced H.R.M. Princess Elizabeth of Rumania in 1935, and had not remarried. As the King had no heirs, Prince Paul was named Crown Prince. Paul and his bride made a striking couple, and young as I was, I was drawn to their beauty. As an artist I found them a wonderful subject and painted their portraits many times. One of these is reproduced here for the first time.

In her autobiography Queen Frederica described her childhood and upbringing in a majestic, German royal household. She was born in the Castle of Blankenburg on April 10th 1917. Her father was the son of the Crown Prince of Hanover, Duke of Brunswick and Duke of Cumberland. The family name was Guelph. Legend relates that one of the Queen's ancestors gave birth to twelve children in one multiple birth. This was no doubt a record by anybody's standards! Since it was considered shameful for a noblewoman to give birth to so many children, she placed all twelve of her new born babies in a basket and carried them to the forest. On her way and much to her dismay, she met her lord and husband, of whom she was quite afraid. Naturally, he asked her what was in the basket, in order to hide the contents she replied that it contained "guelphs", a term which at the time meant either dogs or



Princess Frederica's wedding lunch.

wolves. The husband was unconvinced, insisted on looking inside the basket. Remarkably, he was not angry when he saw the infants. In fact he decided to keep all twelve and as a tribute decided to adopt the surname, Guelph.

The Guelphs are one of the most ancient and princely of European families. Queen Victoria of England and Kaiser Wilhelm II were among its most outstanding modern descendants. Interestingly, Richard the Lionheart (1129-1195) the famous crusader was also a Guelph.

One day whilst talking about our shared experiences, Frederica told me the story of how her parents met.

Her father, Prince Ernst August, Duke of Brunswick was told of an extraordinary dream by his brother, Prince George. George dreamt that he was killed in a car crash. Kaiser Wilhelm, who lived nearby, wanted to show his respect for the family by sending his sons and a military guard to attend. The two young men laughed about the dream. The joke did not concern its poignancy, but the fact that the funeral was accorded full state honours by the Kaiser. The Hohenzollerns were on notoriously bad terms with the Guelphs. An enmity that stemmed back to the reunification of Germany, and the Prussian occupation of Hanover. It seemed to the two Princes that the chances of the Kaiser honouring any Hanoverian event, albeit a funeral, was an unlikely possibility! Extraordinary as it may seem, the dream turned out to be prophetic. The young Prince George was killed in a motor accident, and the Kaiser did send his sons along with a guard of honour to pay his last respects to Prince George and the Guelph family. After the funeral the requisite period of mourning having passed, the Prince of Hanover felt obliged to repay the courtesy. So in keeping with protocol he sent his son, Prince Ernst August to visit the Kaiser to thank him for his concern. It was during this visit that the young Prince met the Kaiser's only daughter, Princess Victoria Louise. The Prince married the Princess shortly before the outbreak of the First World War. The wedding was a grand social event, attended by most of the Royal Families of Europe. Frederica was born the third of five children. Her eldest brother took his father's name and went on to inherit the family title. The second son, took the name of his dead uncle, who unwittingly had been responsible for bringing the two feuding families together in what can only be described as an uneasy truce, as the Guelphs and the Hohenzollerns never really hit it off. Prince George later married Princess Sophia, daughter of Prince Andrew of Greece, and thus sister to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. After Frederica came two younger brothers. Prince Christian, and the youngest of the family, Prince Guelph.

As Frederica was the only girl in a family of four brothers, she had a lot to contend with, and this explains much about her character. A situation with which both myself and my daughter can relate as we both grew up surrounded by brothers. Boys for the most part are tough, and a girl has to decide either to be one of them or be

manipulated like some sort of puppet. With thought, adaptation and intelligence one goes with the flow and becomes one of them. The result is a girl who is alert and lively, as the masculine traits rub off to make for a stronger personality. In short the growing-up process is difficult, but in my opinion, the influence of her four brothers made Queen Frederica a strong minded personality, who was very much alive and who had a multitude of interests.

Frederica was brought up in Germany. Her first home was her parents' villa, "Salzkammergut", in Gmunden. The villa was situated below her grandfather's Castle in Blankenburg, which lies in the Harz Mountains. On the death of her grandfather the family moved into the Castle. Blankenburg contained one of the finest art collections in the world. Aside from its many other treasures, Frederica once told me that it was home to some of the booty brought to Western Europe from Byzantium by her ancestor Richard the Lionheart. It is common knowledge that the knights of the Holy Crusades were not above looting from their fellow Christians when the opportunity arose. This trend culminated in the so called "small fall" of Constantinople in 1204.

Life in Blankenburg Castle passed in the grand style. Many Royal guests were entertained in a regal fashion, with large hunting and shooting parties. Life in the years prior to World War II was more pleasant for the princely families of Europe who led busy lives.

As a child she accompanied her mother on her annual visit to her exiled grandfather, the Kaiser, then living in Holland. Frederica's father and brothers shunned these visits because of the traditional family enmity between the Guelphs and the Hohenzollerns. The Kaiser was very fond of his Guelph granddaughter, being genuinely charmed by her loyalty to the House of Hanover. A sincerity he found most endearing.

It is important to emphasize that despite her German lineage, the Queen also had strong British ties. She was the great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Her father was the head of Germany's "Anglo-German League". A dangerous stance for someone to take in Hitler's "Third Reich". Critics have made much of her childhood link to the Nazi Youth Movement during the inter-war period. This is an unjust view, which fails to recognize that in those troubled times German aristocrats had no choice in matters such as these. The family was compelled to enroll her in the "Movement". It was a pre-requisite for all those who remained in the country, and something that caused anxiety to her father who sent Frederica to England at the earliest opportunity to protect her from fascist influence.

Prince Ernst August, following the advice of his cousin, Queen Mary (Wife of King George V of G.B.) sent his young daughter to North Foreland Lodge School, near Broadstairs in Kent. She was a pupil there when she first met Prince Paul in 1927. Here, she received a thoroughly British education, proving popular with teachers



Six Kings of Greece.

and fellow students alike. Upon graduation she did not return to Germany but went to an American Finishing School in Florence, where she studied Art and Philosophy. It is important to understand why her family strove to give the young Princess a truly international education. The object was to prepare her for her future role as a wife in one of the great European princely families. This thinking superseded narrow nationalistic frontiers, and was typical of the royal households of the time.

In the years prior to the Second World War it was widely recognised by the various European Royal families that a princess should be brought up to fulfill her duty in a way that would be an example of model citizenship, no matter where her eventual home was to be. This preparation insured that these princesses were always welcomed into the different countries and royal houses into which they married. King Edward VII's wife, Queen Alexandra was originally from Denmark, his son King George VII, married Mary of Teck who was German. In Greece, Queen Olga a Russian, was niece of the Tsar. She married King George I. This trend of intermarriage was centuries old. All these princesses learned to love their adopted nations, and educated their sons in the culture, religion and customs of their adopted homelands.

Queen Frederica of Greece was the product of this ancient royal tradition, in no way was she brought up in a chauvinistic German fashion. At every stage of her life she maintained a truly international point of view. Whilst she was at Finishing School in Florence, she often visited the Queen Helen, Queen Mother of Rumania and sister of her future husband, King Paul. Thus from an early age the future Greek Queen was exposed and grew familiar with events in Greece.

Many people felt that pre-war princesses were distant and aloof. Frederica proved an exception to this preconception. She was natural and a true extrovert, who had a special love for children and animals.

She met her husband in 1927, at the young age of 10. The meeting occurred during a visit by Prince Paul and his mother to Blankenburg. Frederica and Prince Paul were distantly related and saw each other from time to time at family gatherings. However, it was not until she was at school in Italy that the young couple realised they were attracted to each other, and so the romance began.

It was not until 1936 that Prince Paul decided to propose; the opportunity arose during their meeting at the Olympic Games in 1936. Years later the Queen told me about this meeting and how the marriage proposal came about.

"I met him again at the Berlin Games, and it was there that he proposed to me. Stupidly, I rejected him, and had to wait two whole years before we got married. The second time he proposed was whilst we were talking about miracles. It was a time when I was going through a crisis of faith and religion; I asked him if he believed in miracles."

His reply was:

"Look outside, look at the trees, at the flowers and yourself. All are miracles!"

"Then, I said to myself, this is my man. The result was that we chatted away for hours. We discovered that we had everything in common. From that moment on, it was always like that!"

So in 1937 they became officially engaged. It was not a long engagement, as they married at the beginning of the following year.

It always struck me as odd that neither of the two young lovers could communicate with each other in their mother tongue. Princess Frederica always wrote to her fiancé in English as her studies had been in that language and she was unable to speak Greek. Perhaps, even more extraordinary is the fact that she generally wrote to her parents in English, rather than in her native German, this also applied to her correspondence with other relatives. When she gave me the packet of letters in London, she stressed that she wanted people to know her marriage was based solely on a deep, mutual respect and profound love. This statement is borne out by the correspondence itself, which shows the couple came to develop a deep spiritual bond:

Baby Darling,

Thank you so much for your sweet letter, I can't tell you how happy I felt in receiving it and I feel terribly guilty for not having written sooner...

..the first of October we have many manoeuvres in Macedonia for two weeks I shall write to you again back to Athens...

We enclosed[sic] the day in a place Volos. I is a small town on the east coast almost half way between Athens and Salonica.

...What astonished me so was some of the officers who had never flown before asked for acrobatics and when I whirled them around the sky in all sorts of positions not only did they not mind but actually liked it. I do it myself, but hate it when others do it. When I started to learn I had already got over the feeling of fright that I used to have in the old days. I remembered distinctly how I used to travel quite a lot by air, I had frightful heartbeating until the airplane took off, then I was alright.

I can't tell you what a pleasure it was to be in the fleet again but it is tiring as sometimes we stand for about 24 hours with short intervals on the bridge...

I hope you enjoyed yourself in Denmark. I imagine you must soon be going to

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF GREECE

King Christian IX of Denmark
1818–1908
m. 1842
Princess Louise of Hesse Cassel
1817–1898

King Frederick VIII of Denmark
1843–1912
m. 1869
Princess Louise of Sweden and Norway
1851–1926

Alexandra
1844–1925
m. 1863
King Edward VII of Great Britain
1841–1910

King George I of Greece
1845–1913
m. 1867
Grand Duchess Olga of Russia
1851–1926

Dagmar
1847–1929
m. 1866
Tsar Alexander III
of Russia
1845–1894

Thyra
1853–1933
m. 1878
Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland
1845–1923

Waldemar
1858–?
m. 1885
Marie d'Orleans
1865–1909

King Constantine I of Greece
1868–1923
m. 1889
Princess Sophie of Prussia
1870–1932

George
1869–1957
m. 1907
Princess Marie-Bonaparte
1882–1962

Alexandra
1870–1891
m. 1889
Grand Duke Paul of Russia
1860–1919

Nicholas
1872–1940
m. 1902
Grand Duchess Elena of Russia
1882–1957

Marie
1876–1940
m. 1900
Grand Duke George of Russia
1863–1919
m. 1922
Admiral Pericles Joannides
1881–1965

Olga
1880–1880

Andrew
1882–1944
m. 1903
Princess Alice of Mountbatten
1885–1969

Christopher
1888–1940
m. 1920
Nancy Leeds, Princess Anastasia
1873–1923
m. 1929
Princess Françoise of France
1902–1953

King George II of Greece
1890–1947
m. 1921
Princess Elisabeth of Rumania
1894–1956

King Alexander I of Greece
1893–1920
m. 1921
Aspasia Manos
1896–1956

Alexandra
1921–
m. 1944
King Peter II of Yugoslavia
1923–1970

Alexander
1945–
m. 1972
Maria de Gloria of Orleans-Bragance

Helen
m
King Carl of Rumania

King Michael II of Rumania
1921–
m. 1948
Princess Anna of Bourbon-Parma
1923–

Margarita 1949–
Helen 1950–
Irina 1953–
Sophia 1957–
Maria 1964–

King Paul I of Greece
1908–1964
m. 1938
Princess Frederica of Hanover
1917–1981

Sofia
1938–
m. 1962
King Juan Carlos of Spain
1938–

Filipe
Elena
Cristina

King Constantine II of Greece
1940–
m. 1964
Princess Anna-Maria of Denmark
1946–

Alexia 1965–
Paul 1967–
Nicholas 1969–
Theodora 1983–
Philip 1986–

Irene
1942–

Irene
1904–1974
m. 1939
Aimone, Duke of Aosta
1900–1948

Amedeo
1943–
m. 1964
Princess Claude of France
1943–

Katherine
1913–
m. 1947
Richard Brandram
1911–

Paul
1948–
m.
Jennifer Steele
1951–

Peter
1908–1980
m. 1939
Irene Ovtchinnikov
1904–1990

Eugenie
1910–
m. 1938
Prince Dominik Radziwill
1911–1976
m. 1949
Raymund, Duke of Castel Duino
1907

Olga
1903–
m. 1923
Prince Paul of Yugoslavia
1893–1976

Elisabeth
1904–1955
m. 1934
Carl, Count of Toerring-Jettenbach
1900–1967

Marina
1906–1968
m. 1934
George, Duke of Kent
1902–1942

4 daughters

Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
1921–
m. 1947
Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain
1926–

Charles
Anne
Andrew
Edward

Michael
1939–
m. 1962
Marina Karolla
1940–

Alexandra 1968–
Olga 1971–

Gmunden... I wish I could be there with you. Everyday I think of you and wonder what you are doing and what you are thinking about. One thing you must not do and that is to worry, as worrying does nobody any good...

I think you are little inclined to be sorry, aren't you darling. I am sure I could convince you about various things that are true, I know they are true when we will have the opportunity of meeting again. Once one has grasped certain basic laws of nature that nothing will ever change they have always been and always will be, then it is extraordinary how one finds a peace of mind and looks at things from much higher and feels more quiet and content. All this sounds very vague and grand but it is very difficult to go into details of that sort in a letter...

All my love and looking forward to seeing you soon

Yours old
Palos
To: Schloss Hubertihaus
Saturday, October 9, 1937

Royal Palace,
Athens.

13th October 1937

My darling,

Please forgive me for not writing sooner, but I will try to make up for it now. My Angel I miss you. ....

I have been here two days already and yet my thoughts and heart are with you all the time. I am only half here because my soul is with you all the time. I am simply longing to feel your little arms around my neck. You have no idea how much I love you and adore you and from now my whole life will be devoted to yours....... In Budapest our minister was waiting for me and gave me some coffee. Belgrade was very dark. Sofia was already much better. There at the aerodrome was the King's brother Kyril waiting for me with all sorts of pompous and important profiles. In Salonica it was already clear and warm.



King George I of Greece, his wife Olga and their children.

October 15, 1937

I did not manage to finish this letter the other day and I am doing so much..... The manoeuvres finished yesterday, this morning we had the critik....On Tuesday I will be back in Athens....

In principle our wedding will be able to come off the first days of January and I hope to be able to fix it on the 7th if that suits you. I am afraid the bridal coach will not be able to be used as all the springs have gone to pieces and it is impossible to have it in time....The trip from Brindisi will not be possible as the ships will not be available just then. So I am afraid you will have to come down by train the whole way.

Royal Palace

Athens.

October 14, 1937

My own sweet Babychen,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sweet letter that I received the day on our arrival. You can't imagine the pleasure you gave me it was the first letter I received since we parted. I long for you so much that it hurts and I am already counting the days until we both meet again. My sweet Angel you say that you are a sentimental so am I terribly.

.... This afternoon I went and looked at a house, it was proposed as a temporary home for us. It was quite frightful...Your going into my room the way you did, after I had gone, is just the sort of thing I would have done..

...You have no idea how much I love and miss you, all I do is only in connection with you darling.

I will do everything in my power to help you make life as agreeable as possible but even there will be hardships and disappointments...

..... I know we will be wrapped up in acts after you and I are married and that will make things much easier. My sweety do write to me as often and as long as you can. You have no idea the pleasure your letters give me and thank you so much for the Edelweiss. I shall keep it always I've got you once more

in my arms and kiss you with all my heart. I adore you everyday more and more......

Your own loving

Palos
To Schloss Huberihaus.

Royal Palace
Athens.

October 17, 1937

My darling sweet Babychen,

Your second letter arrived today and I jumped with joy when I saw it. The scolding you gave me for calling myself ugly accused me so much that I started laughing all by myself.

Darling, I was not wishing I meant it true. But never I will call myself that name again. After having been so severely reprimanded....In my last letter I quite forgot to mention the question of your official name. Once you have decided not to take the name of my Mother it remains for you to choose one....

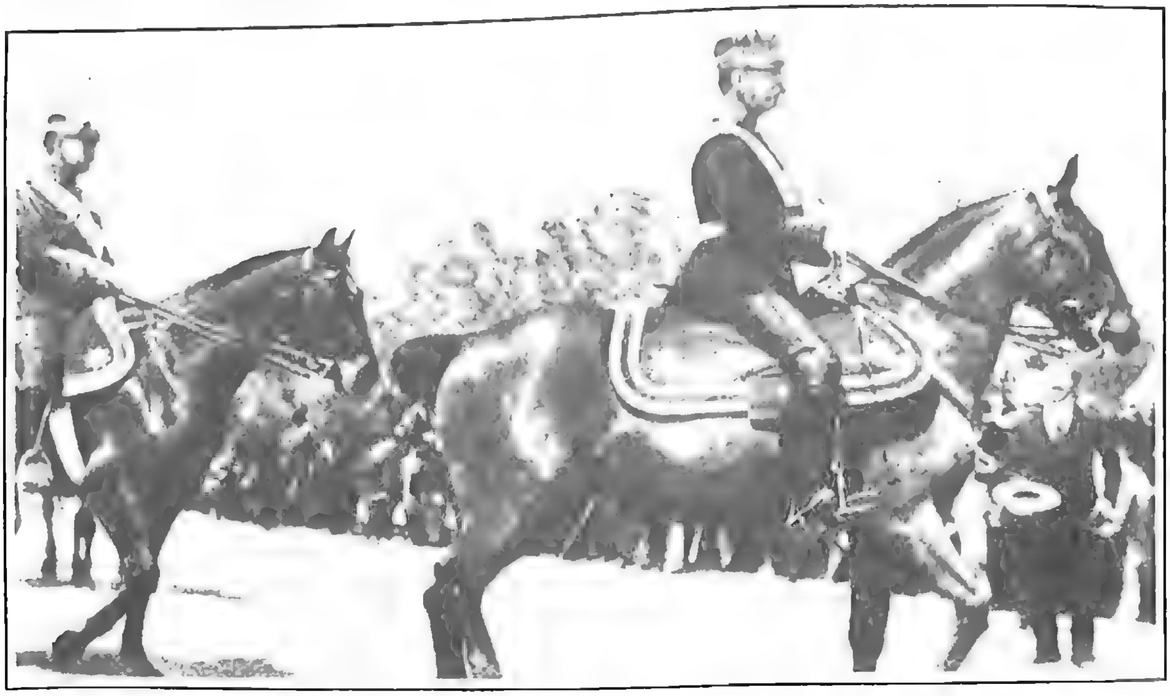
I find that seventh of January is a Friday and not a good day to get married or perhaps the 9th a Sunday should be better. Georgie (his brother the King) this evening told me it is (sic) better as well to prepare for eventualities to have the wedding roughly a month later. I nearly fainted...I am going to move heaven and earth to get everything arranged for January...

....Yesterday I went to see a house that I heard about, and I found it charming.... It has a small garden... I have written to Tim[3] and asked her to order our rings and I hope in two or three weeks time I might receive them and then will send yours at once to you with all my love and heart. Darling Angel how I miss you. I love you with all my might and strength... You divinely sweet, true, loving genuine and capable... but above all your very human and understand such a lot through intuition which is not the ordinary woman's. In time you will have to admit that what I am saying now is true. I could not help loving you even if I did not want to. Everybody here has been congratulating me and they ask, what does she look like. Is she



H.M. King George I of the Hellenes, founder of the Dynasty

King George I, followed by Crown Prince Constantine, entering Salonika after its capture in 1912.





King Constantine's family at table. *Left to right:* Princess Irene, Crown Prince George, Queen Sophie with Princess Katherine, the King, Princess Helen, Prince Alexander, Prince Paul.



The widowed Queen Olga and her family. *Seated left to right:* Prince George, The Queen, King Constantine. *Standing:* Prince Andrew, Princess Marie, Prince Christopher and Prince Nicholas.

fair, what colour are her eyes, is she tall, all awfully kind, well meaning and instantly childish.

..I kiss you goodnight with all my heart and soul and I am with you in spirit all the time....

Goodnight.

Your loving adoring and longing

Palos
To Schloss Hubertchon.

On their return from honeymoon the young couple moved into a small villa in the Athens suburb of Psychiko, which had been purchased for them by the Greek Government. With the Queen's dowry they also bought an estate named "Polydendri", near the northern Greek town of Larissa. All us girls wondered how the new Princess would find life in a small villa after the luxurious splendour of her magnificent castle in Hanover. Later in life I asked this same question.

"I loved this house so much, it was my first home, full of joy and happiness", was her reply.

From time to time news came to our Convent School about her life. Frederica quickly involved herself in local charities She invited the ladies of the Red Cross to a meeting and asked them to brief her on their work. She showed a particular interest in the country's children and developed a special bond with the Children's Hospital of Saint Sophia. The nuns took advantage of the Princess's example and frequently urged us to follow her lead. So much so, that we were all eager to finish school and go out and help her in her efforts.

On November 3rd we heard that Frederica had, the previous day, given birth to a daughter, whom she named Sofia, now Queen of Spain. The baby was called after Prince Paul's mother in keeping with Greek tradition.

In spite of high hopes for national reconciliation and the King's sincere efforts to heal the gulf between republicans and royalists the country was torn by strikes and political turmoil throughout 1936. An unstable coalition was formed, with the unpopular Communist Party holding the balance of power. A non-political former academic, Constantine Demerdzis became Prime-Minister, and General Metaxas was Minister of Defence.

As the politicians tried to negotiate a way towards a more unified government,



King Constantine I achieving Independence from Turkish occupation in Macedonia.

Yianena freed from the Turks by King Constantine I, 1913.



fate intervened. Demerdzis died on April 14, 1936; in keeping with his constitutional powers King George appointed Metaxas Prime-Minister. The loss of Demerdzis was aggravated by the death of several politicians, including the leader of the Greek Republican Movement. This situation weakened the coalition government, and with widespread labour unrest strengthened the power of the Communist Deputies. It looked as if Greece was on the brink of rule by the Communists. Metaxas had to find a solution to a situation which threatened the democracy of his country. The Prime-Minister requested the adjournment of Parliament for five months in order to form a new coalition. This request was granted.

The political situation was explosive, as the Communists were not about to be stripped of power so easily. To counter the dissolution of Parliament, they called for a general strike. Fearing a direct confrontation between the two sides Metaxas approached a surprised King and requested on August 4, 1936, the temporary suspension of certain key articles of the Greek Constitution. Owing to the worsening political situation in the Country the King had no choice but to agree. Everyone expected the political and economic situation to stabilise, and that normality would return. In fact internal and international events made this impossible, and the Greek Parliament did not convene again until 1946 !

Time has not healed the wounds that were opened on that August day. For many, Metaxas's actions were necessary because of the explosive situation that had overtaken the country. For others, the Prime-Minister was seen as a dictator, who had illegally seized power in order to halt social and political change. My personal view is that it is wrong to identify the man with the fascist regimes of Hitler and Mussolini.

As we will shortly learn both the King and Metaxas stood with the Greek people against the Axis Powers who later tried to crush the Country. Under the circumstances it was necessary for a military man to prepare Greece for the turbulent clashes that lay ahead. Moreover, the Country could ill afford the economic and political chaos that the Communists fomented in such dangerous times. The events that followed made it impossible for the Monarchy to reinstate the parties that constituted the Greek political scene. Those of us who knew King George, and were able to discuss the situation with him, know full well that if war had not intervened, he would have readjourned Parliament and asked for a new Government as soon as things had stabilised.

The King found his Prime-Minister's firm hand necessary during the crisis of those years, yet he disliked many of his political ideas and police state methods. The creation of a National Youth Movement (EON) was particularly unpopular. My husband remembers a specific episode when George II angrily forced down the hand of one of Metaxas's staff when he saluted him in the Nazi style. This was significant because, the episode occurred in the presence of several Court officials, and Metaxas



Psychico – the first house of Prince Paul and Princess Frederica in Athens, after their marriage in 1938.
Here she came to live after King Paul's death and was kept under arrest by Papadopoulis.

himself. It was widely recognised that the King went to great lengths to curb the harsher methods requested by the police to crush Communist power.

Some commentators have made much of the fact that Prince Paul and Princess Frederica were officially considered to be at the head of the Youth Groups. Suffice to say, they never took an active interest in the activities of the EON They were simply figureheads compelled to lend their patronage as part of their Governmental responsibilities. Let me stress that there were no plans to form a Nazi style political party.

Metaxas was an old man, during the time of his rule. He was not a member of a political party. He certainly lacked the charisma to create one from the ranks of his youthful followers. His aim was to elevate the sense of patriotism in the country's young, as he knew a war was approaching.

My husband, Sophocles, disagreed with Metaxas on many issues at that time. In my opinion, his regime has yet to be fully researched and understood.

Everyone in the country was worried by the worsening European political situation, and the internal problems that Greece was facing, in spite of which the routine of daily life continued.

I left school at the end of May, 1940, returning to my home in Athens. It was on June 2nd, that I was invited to a small party in a girlfriend's house in the suburb of Ekali. During the party we heard the sound of a cannon, and realized that the Princess had given birth to another child. The following news broadcast informed us that her son, Constantine had been born. Constantine! What a historic name in Greece. We all looked at one another speculating whether the future would smile upon our generation. You see, Constantine I was the first Emperor of the Byzantine Empire.

Byzas, in Greek mythology was the first King of Byzantium, the son of the God Apollo and Keroessa. Byzas II was the chief of Megara, who in 658 BC, built Byzantium. It was to this Greek Land, home of Roman military might, that Constantine came in 324 AD. He was the son of Saint Helen, and went on to build Constantinopolis. The city that bore his name. Constantinople was known as the "Queen of Cities" by its inhabitants. It developed into the strongest Empire of the time.

Constantine was the first Emperor to declare Christianity as an official religion of the Empire, and it was here that the Christian religion began to flourish. From 378-381 the Patriach of Constantinople was Saint Gregory Nazianzinos, one of the most renowned characters of Christendom. He was followed by Saint Basil in 400 AD and later by Saint John Chrysostomos. The Emperor Justinian along with his wife Theodora reigned from 527-565, during which time they were responsible for the building of

the most glorious cathedral in the whole Christian World, Saint Sophia (holy Wisdom). The Cathedral still stands in modern day Istanbul.

Although young we toasted the Royal birth with champagne. We stood there, hoping for a happy future. We were all proud of our ancestors, and yet sentimental. Life had yet to distort our perfect vision. Little did any of us know. that in just four short months our country would be at war!

NOTES

1. Le Couvent des Ursulines still exists on the island of Tinos, although it no longer operates as a school.
2. The wedding ceremony was described by Frederica herself in her autobiography."A Measure of Understanding." (London 1971) 18-19, hereafter cited as Frederica, *AMU*.
3. Tim. Paul's sister, Princess Irene Duchess of Aosta.

CHAPTER TWO

WAR COMES TO GREECE: 28 OCTOBER, 1940

We were awakened at 6 am that Monday morning by the sound of sirens. Shortly afterwards, the eerie wail was followed by the peal of church bells. Within minutes we knew the news. At five that fateful morning, Italy had presented General Metaxas with an ultimatum. The Prime Minister had replied with his legendary "OCHI" ("NO"). In response, the Italians bombed the port of Patras, and attacked the northern frontier from Albania.

Later that morning King George broadcast to the Greek Nation:

"Hellenes, at this momentous hour, I am sure that every Greek man or woman will perform his duty up to the end, and will appear worthy of our glorious history.

With a faith in God and the destiny of our race, the united Nation will obey as one man. Will fight for our altars and firesides until the final victory."

ΥΠΕΡ ΒΩΜΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΣΤΙΩΝ ΝΥΝ ΥΠΕΡ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΑΓΩΝ

The Prime-Minister, spoke shortly afterwards.....

"The hour has come to fight for the independence of Greece, for her integrity, for her honour. Though we have observed strict neutrality to all alike. Italy, having refused to recognise our right to live as free Greeks, demanded at 3 o'clock this morning, that we should surrender parts of our territory. Adding that if we did not comply, their army of occupation would begin to march at 6 o'clock. My reply to the Italian Ambassador was that I considered this demand and the manner of its presentation as an Italian declaration of war on Greece.

Hellenes, we will now show whether we are truly worthy of our ancestors and of the freedom promised to us by our forefathers.

Let the Nation arise! Fight for your Fatherland, for your wives, for your children and for our sacred traditions."

The Greek population received the news with exaltation. All over Greece the streets were filled with exuberant and emotional crowds, brimming with optimism.

ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΗΤΤΕ SONS OF THE GREEKS ARISE

"Oh yes, Greece will fight! Italy will get the lesson it deserves!" The radio broadcast quotations made famous by Greek warriors of the past:

ΑΜΕΣ ΔΕ Γ'ΕΣΩΜΕΘΑ ΑΜΥΝΩΝ ΚΑΡΩΝΕΣ
WE WILL BE THE BEST DEFENDERS

There was a strong, popular belief that once again the Hellenes would revive the spirit of Marathon and Thermopylae. Everyone was ready to make the sacrifices necessary so that Greece would once again be free.

The King, the Government and the Greek people were prepared for war. A war that everyone expected. Events had been set in motion earlier in the year. On August 15, thousands of pilgrims flocked, as was usual, to the island of Tinos, to celebrate the feast day of the Virgin, and to pay homage to the icon painted by Saint Luke. Traditionally, the government sent a warship to the island as part of its contribution to the celebrations. That August the ship in question was the flagship "Elli". The Italians torpedoed the vessel as it lay in harbour. To make matters worse some of the torpedoes went astray, hit the quayside and killed several of the pilgrims on the island.

The Metaxas Government played down the incident, as the Prime-Minister did not want to provoke the aggressors. So the Italians were never named as culprits. In spite of the fact that the torpedoes were identified as being of Italian manufacture. In truth, Greece was not ready for war, and needed time to prepare for the inevitable. Although the Government officially remained silent, the Minister of the Interior, Maniadakis, deliberately leaked the story of the attack. In fact the "Elli" incident was not the first provocation in the escalating conflict between Greece and Italy. Earlier in the year Mussolini's air force bombed the carrier "Orion" off the island of Andros.

Metaxas, gauged public opinion consulting the King and military leaders as to what he should do. Would Greece remain neutral, join the Axis Powers or the Allies? Clearly a decision had to be made. After consultation, the course was clear. An emergency cabinet meeting was called, where the Prime Minister declared:....

"Gentlemen, expressing the will of His Majesty the King, as well as that of the people and having taken advice from the military, I declare that Greece will fight on the side of the British. If any one of you has a different opinion, I must ask him to resign from the government. God bless the King and our country."

Prince Paul and Princess Frederica heard the announcement of war whilst cruising the Greek islands aboard a friend's yacht. Amongst their party was Prince Christian, the princess' brother, a German citizen. As a German he was obliged to serve his own country. This made him an enemy. Ironically brother and sister found themselves on opposing sides; a very eighteenth century state of affairs.

Later the princess told me:....

"My country stood in the opposite camp to his. We both felt our duty compelled us to be loyal to our respective countries. We hoped that when the war ended, we would be still alive.

This thought made me cry, and Palo did his best to help me through this desperate situation. You see, my son Constantine had just been born. I had to stand with heart and all my deep belief by my husband, my children and my adopted country. My country was now Greece. It was the nation of my husband, and the home of my son's future.

Immediately I stopped crying and said...God bless every mother and every wife, and let God spare their beloved husbands, so that they can all be together when the war ends."

At this time I was working hard in order to complete my studies in French and Greek. I wanted to gain admission to Oxford University to read history. My father and eldest brother, Michael, were in London. My mother and my youngest brother, Adrian, were with me in Athens. On the European stage Hitler invaded France, Holland and Belgium, and Fascism spread its ugly hand over the continent. As the situation worsened Michael, returned from London and volunteered for the Royal Navy. He was accepted and served aboard the warship, "Panther". On the declaration of war, I was told by my mother that I, too, had to serve in some capacity. She presented me to the President of the Red Cross, Mrs. Mavrokordatos, who put me to work in the Prisoners of War Department. A job that I held until the end of hostilities in 1945.

In Athens crowds jostled to catch a glimpse of the King as he drove through the streets. People shouted:

"We will win, we will be proved worthy of our ancestors!"

The news that the small country of Greece had refused to succumb to the might of Italy spread throughout the world. In London, Winston Churchill stood up in the House of Commons, amidst cheers and applause saying:........

"....Immortal Greece. Fight for life and honour! The Greek King, his Government and the Greek people have resolved to fight for life and honour."

On November 11th, in a speech at the Lord Mayor's Lunch, he went on to say:.......

"Heroic Greece. To the valiant Greek people and their armies...We send from the heart of London our faithful promise that amid all our burdens and anxieties, we will do our best to aid them in their struggle."

He sent the following message to the Greek Prime Minister, Yiannis Metaxas:....

"Italy has found threats and intimidation of no avail against your calm courage. She has, therefore, resorted to unprovoked aggression against your country, seeking justification for a wanton attack in baseless accusations.

The way in which the Greek people, under your trusted leadership have faced the dangers and provocations of recent months, has gained the admiration of the British people; the same qualities will uphold them in their present hour of trial. We will give you all the help in our power. We fight a common foe and will pursue a united victory."

Prime Minister Metaxas replied:

"Your words have deeply touched me and their inspiring echo has resounded throughout the Greek nation. With the same serenity and resolution which led us to oppose aggression by a perfidious adversary. We are going to base our common and certain victory on the eternal principles of morality, justice and liberty established 3000 years ago on the sacred soil we are now defending. May God help you in your task, Great Britain could not have a worthier leader than you!"

Support for Greece's heroic stand, came also from Buckingham Palace. This message was sent by King George VI of Great Britain to King George II of Greece:

"In this hour of Greece's need, I wish to say to the heroic Greek nation and to my cousin George, King of the Hellenes, that we are with you in this struggle. Your cause is our cause. We shall be fighting against a common foe. There are doubtless hard trials to be borne but we shall both meet them in the firm faith that ultimate victory is assured by the ever increasing strength of free people. We may hope, indeed, that we are already near the turn of the tide, when the power of the aggressors

will begin to ebb and our own growing might will prevail. Long live Greece and her leaders. Long live the King of the Hellenes!"[1]

These sentiments were echoed by Britain's allies. Prime Minister Mackenzie King of Canada was quoted by the London Times of 30th, October 1940 as describing Greece as a: "...citadel of human freedom."

My brother, Michael, telephoned the family with his news. The battle of the "Mare Nostrum" (Mediterranean) had begun. What could we say but..."God bless us all!"

In response to these dramatic events, Princess Nicholas, the mother of Marina, Duchess of Kent, Princess Katherine and the young Frederica immediately set about organising support services for the troops. The Princess urged all Greek women to.... "Knit as much as you can. Our soldiers are in need of woollen socks, clothes and sweaters. We must all stand next to our troops in this battle."

As the war progressed, the Crown Princess, visited hospitals in an effort to improve the morale of the wounded. The King's sister, Princess Katherine worked as a nurse in the Red Cross. The country's leaders strove hard to instill bravery and patriotism into the population, quoting often the heroic happenings of Greece's ancient past. These men were real leaders, who knew how to inspire armies and cause people to do great deeds.

Amidst the increasing patriotic fervour, the British refused to ignore their new ally, and made every effort to help the Greeks in their struggle. Winston Churchill was a wonderful proponent of the country's plight. On November 5th, he rallied the British Parliament to the Greek cause. Under no circumstances was Greece to stand alone. This is what he said:.....

"...now a new call has been made upon us. The Italian dictator, perhaps embarrassed by the somewhat florid flirtations of M. Laval with the German conqueror, or perhaps playing his part in some new predatory design, has in his customary cold blooded way, fallen upon the small but famous and immortal Greek nation. Without the slightest provocation, with no pretense at parley, Signor Mussolini has invaded Greece, or tried to do so, and his aircraft have murdered an increasing number of Greek civilians, women and children in Salonica and in many other open Greek towns. The Greek King, his government and the Greek people have resolved to fight for life and honour lest the world should be easily led in chains.... I should say that our forces are moving with the desire and design to help the Greeks to the utmost of our capacity ...."

The role played by the Greek royal family in the battle against Fascism has been glossed over by historians. Queen Frederica and the monarchy has been accused of



The Royal Palace in *Athens built by King Othon* in the 19th century. House of Parliament since World War I.

harbouring pro-German sympathies. I should now like to set the record straight. I cite two letters form the archives which illustrate the part played by King George II in the fight against the Axis.

GEORGE II, KING OF THE HELLENES
TO GEORGE VI, KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Athens, 10 November 1940

A fortnight has now gone by since Italy attacked my country and I am thankful to say that our mobilization has been almost completed without Italian forces having made any serious inroad. I know that my country owes this in no small degree to support generously given by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Now this phase of war is passing I feel more confident that my forces will be able to resist any Italian attacks provided that British naval and air forces can successfully interrupt passage of reinforcements to Albania. If this can be done you will have a secure base from which to carry the war against the heart of Italy. As your friend and ally I earnestly pray that opportunity for this offensive will not be lost. Greek forces cannot take this offensive action alone and what is wanted is large air striking action.

Such action would have advantages not only for Greece but for whole Allied cause. First reports from captured Italian prisoners and from my Minister in Rome, who has just returned show that Italian morale is very low......

... and that determined bombing attacks on a large scale of the east coast of Italy combined with a check in Albania, might have overwhelming effect. Secondly, any offensive action against Italy and Albania would immediately relieve situation in area vital to British Empire near the Suez Canal. Thirdly, I may hope that Prince Paul and perhaps King Boris[1] would wish to resist any German threats to their neutrality provided there was some hope of their having some solid backing. If the Royal Air Force could establish themselves in Greece first, not only would Yugoslavia and perhaps Bulgaria be ready to resist German threats, but the Royal Air Force would be able to harass any German advance at a time of year when large scale troop movements are already difficult and will become increasingly so. This might also influence the situation in Rumania.

To get these advantages for the Allied cause it is imperative that action should be taken at once. I fully realise the difficulties of British forces in Egypt, who are defending an area ultimately as vital to Greece as to the British Empire, and I most deeply appreciate support already given at sacrifice to British strength in that area. But I am afraid preoccupation with Egypt looms so large that opportunities of action from Greece are not so clearly seen. As an ally may I ask that this telegram which

has full approval of my Prime Minister, who was a staff officer, shall be shown to Mr. Winston Churchill, whose clear vision in these things is respected in all allied countries.

My heartfelt wishes to Elizabeth and yourself.

George VI replied to the Greek King's cable, five days later on November 15th.

GEORGE VI OF GREAT BRITAIN
TO
GEORGE II, KING OF THE HELLENES.

London, 15th November 1940

1. I am so grateful for your message which so clearly sets out our joint aims in the war against Italy, and wish to congratulate you on the extremely successful resistance of your armed forces in the first and highly critical phase of the war. Whilst I am glad to feel that our naval and air support may have contributed something to this success, the laurels must go to the soldiers of Hellas who by their courage, spirited defense and skillful dispositions have already taught the vainglorious Italians a lesson.

2. Mr. Churchill and my chiefs of staff have given careful consideration to the points you raise in your telegram. I can assure you that they are fully alive to the vital importance of interrupting the passage of Italian reinforcements to Albania, and this task has in fact been laid down as the main object of the units of my Air Force which are cooperating with your forces. Every opportunity for striking at the common enemy from your territories will most certainly be seized, following up the blow which the aircraft of the Mediterranean fleet have just struck at the Italian battle fleet. This blow must surely have a telling effect on Italian morale. To continue this air offensive we are already in process of sending to Greece as quickly as possible the largest air striking force which we can at present spare. In addition to air action, units of my Navy have, as you know, been carrying out operations against the right flank of the Italian army.

3. I also have received reports of low state of Italian morale, and I hope that determined bombing attacks which my Air Force is already delivering on targets on the east coast of Italy will cause further deterioration. These attacks will be continued up the limit of our resources. I agree with you that the harder we strike at the Italians, the more Prince Paul and King Boris are likely to take heart and resist Axis pressure, and the higher the temperature of activity and passive resistance is likely to rise everywhere.

4. I am satisfied that the vital importance of taking action at once to reap all these advantages for the Allied cause is fully appreciated by my Government. Whilst it is the case that the joint Chiefs of Staff have been obliged to balance carefully risks in other theatres in the Mediterranean area when deciding on the strength of the forces which have and are being sent to your assistance I am happy to be able to say that in spite of our preoccupation with the defense of Egypt, we have decided to send to Greece a great measure of the support which we realise that you so sorely need, We are most anxious and willing to provide as far as we possibly can the forces which are required and as a measure of our determination I must tell you that the help which we have sent and are sending has involved taking serious risks in Egypt.

5. In conclusion I reciprocate most warmly your wishes to Elizabeth and myself; our thoughts are continuously with you in your hard and courageous struggle.

In the meantime, news of early successes began to filter down to Athens from the Albanian front. On November 21st Military Headquarters reported that the Army had taken the Albanian city of Konitza. This victory heightened national morale, and news of it spread like wildfire. Instead of this being a defensive campaign, Field Marshall Alexander Papagos leading his troops on the offensive against the Italians had seized an important urban area. The world saw that a determined people could fight for their freedom, given the right leadership. Greece had achieved the impossible!

Churchill was delighted by the performance of the Greeks,and telegraphed Metaxas a message of congratulation on the following day, November 22:

"Heartiest congratulations on your victories which have been crowned by the seizure of Konitza. This achievement of Greek bravery against the enemy so superior in men and armaments, inspires great enthusiasm. It reminds us of the Hellenic trophy of the classical period. Long live Greece!"

Konitza was a remarkable battle, and the delight of the Greek people who celebrated the victory by ringing the church bells up and down the land, this was not a hollow show of nationalist euphoria. It was the first Allied victory against the Axis powers in the Second World War. With improved morale, the nation drew strength and courage to work harder and fight more bravely.

Civilians and soldiers paraded through the streets all over the country, carrying flowers and portraits of the King and Prime Minister Metaxas. Flags appeared on the roof tops of houses. All over Athens the blue Greek flag was to be seen, intermingled from time to time with the Red, White and Blue of the Union Jack. Where people had found supplies of the British flag is hard to say, but they flew this foreign flag as a gesture of gratitude to the British for the help they had given contributing to the fall of Konitza.

I still remember that day. Greek soldiers clutching bottles of retsina danced in Constitution Square dressed as "evzones". They intermingled with Scottish soldiers wearing kilts and holding bottles of whisky. Most in good humour, aided no doubt by the whisky and the retsina. The song of the time was:.........

"What a surprise for the Duce,
He can't put a foot over the Greeks[2]

The Greek song was ....

"Koroido Mussolini!" ....(Ridiculous Mussolini!)

The Metaxas Government was faced with several problems. The country was fighting a war against far stronger and better armed adversaries, but there were also internal problems to be faced. One was the infiltration of the country by a Nazi "fifth column", and the other was that of the Communists, inspired by the Soviet Union. The government arrested members of the fifth column as well as leaders of the Greek Communist party, such as Zachariadis. The Communists and the Nazis made strange bedfellows in their prisons of Corfu and Akronafplia, but the reason for these arrests was the same; both organisations were betraying the people of Greece. The Communist plot and its ramifications was manufactured in Moscow. The fall of Greece very much suited Stalin's aims for Europe. As early as November 7th 1939 the Greek Communist newspaper "Rizopastis" stated:...

"....Workers and farmers do not believe that the war is to save democracy. This war takes place only for the sake of the reactionaries."[3]

We now know that the Soviet Union had signed a secret treaty with Hitler. Although at heart sworn enemies, both powers knew the other was a useful tool in furthering their policies of foreign expansion. On 30th November 1939, "Rizopastis", again reported:......

"The Role Of Glüburg.''[4]

".....They, the Greek monarchy want to lead Greece to war on the side of the Franco-British imperialists. They are ready to put Greece on a war footing and offer the Greek people to Chamberlain (Prime Minister of Great Britain) for slaughter. The people and the army must oppose these imperialist, Franco-British plans, and their Greek agents."

What was going on? "The Times" of Wednesday 13th November 1940, answers the question:

"The Red Flag Beside the Swastiza"

"Mr. Molotov, Russian Foreign Minister, arrived in Berlin yesterday with a suite of thirty-two and had interviews with Hitler and Ribbentrop ..... Mr. Molotov's first day in Berlin yesterday was spent in long conversations with Hitler and Ribbentrop.

With his thirty-two attendant commissars, deputy commissars and experts, the Soviet Foreign Minister arrived at the Anhalt Station during the morning. To greet him on the platform were Ribbentrop, Field Marshal Keitel, Himmler, head of the Gestapo and Ley, leader of the Labour Front Police lined the streets and here and there Red flags were flying..

Yesterday, the German "Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz", the somewhat heavy toned voice of the German Foreign Office, declared that the Soviet Union would be invited to join in building the "New World Order", in harmony with Germany, Italy and Japan."

Naturally, Soviet foreign policy would have been well served by the German alliance. Stalin was no fool. It was important that his principal warm water port of Odessa have access to the Mediterranean, and other prizes to the east were sorely tempting. Again we turn to "The Times" of London of the following day. That is to say, Thursday November14th:

"Soviet-Nazi Talks...
Molotov sees Hitler Again
A Meeting After Luncheon."

"Nothing is said openly. Hitler believes that Soviet Russia can help him in both his desires.........Either he would offer Stalin a joint share in the Straits[5] or he would claim the Straits as his own preserve and offer Stalin golden prospects further east, in Iran etc...."

The Soviets did not remain silent about the events in Berlin. On November 15th. "Trud", the voice of the Russian trade unions, stressed the importance of Greek victories over the Italians. Successes that strengthened British power in the eastern Mediterranean:

"The Italo-Greek war, continues to the advantage of the Greeks. The strategic positions now in British hands after the entire Mediterranean situation."

Konitza was not the only victory. The Greek Army continued to score success after success against the Italians in Albania. "The Times" of Monday, 6th December tells us:....

"The Greeks have occupied Argyrokastro and Delrino. Much material has been seized and many prisoners have been taken. The Greek advance continues ...."

There was total confusion in the Italian Army. Mussolini's Government had provoked Greece into declaring war, and the chiefs of staff had expected a swift capitulation on the part of the Greeks. This simply did not happen. The Italians were discredited. Marshal Badoglio, the Chief of Staff, resigned. He was followed by General de Vecchi and Admiral Caragnari.

The Greek advance continued, with Klissoura coming under fire. The humiliating defeat in Albania had serious repercussions in Italy. The Washington correspondent of "The Times" reported that there was:....

"Unrest in Italy. Serious troubles within the Fascist Party and the army after the resignation of their superiors."

On November, 25th King George II paid tribute to his army on its successful campaign to the north in Albania:

"When hearing the call of your country you took up arms to repel the invader. I was deeply convinced that you would fully respond to the nations and my own expectations. I am happy that within a short time you have brilliantly justified this conviction and have shown the peoples of the world that the Greeks of today are worthy of their ancestors. The gratitude of the nation is completely yours. You have saved its honour and its liberty. In the golden book of history you have added a new and splendid page. I am proud to be your leader."

The soldiers were particularly thrilled to hear the "Te Deum" sung in the Orthodox Churches of the Albanian cities seized by the Greek Army. Here was a concrete manifestation of victory. A victory that impressed President Roosevelt in distant America. Who realized that Axis power had crushed most of the continent of Europe, its sole opponents being the island nation of Great Britain and the small country of Greece.

The American President felt that both of these nations were inadequately equipped to fight a war on this scale. In short the Allies needed material assistance, namely arms and ammunition in order to fight at all and maintain their liberty. He defined this as: "A freedom to worship God in their own way, freedom from wrong, freedom from fear, they are the ultimate stakes."

The Italian defeat in Albania, was not the result the Germans expected. They had hoped for a quick solution to the Greek problem, and this simply had not happened. The time had come for Hitler's Government to intervene of behalf of his ally, Mussolini. If the Italian Army could not beat the Greeks and occupy the country,

there had to be another solution. How better to achieve this end, than through the Greek monarchy's connection with the German House of Hanover! In a stroke that would have brought joy to the heart of Metternich he resorted to what he considered to be diplomacy.

On January 2nd, 1941 a certain Dr. Von Angerer appeared in Athens with the "diplomatic bag". On his arrival he requested an interview with Crown Prince Paul and Princess Frederica, stating that he carried a personal letter from her parents. The Crown Prince consulted his brother, the King and the Prime Minister on the advisability of such a meeting, and was told to proceed. The interview was granted. Von Angerer gave Frederica a letter from her father, the Duke of Brunswick.

In his letter the Duke paid tribute to the Greek Army and its achievements in Albania, but at the same time stressed the futility of further resistance, which would oblige the Germans to intervene in support of their Italian ally. The letter urged Paul and Frederica to persuade the Greek government to find a formula to bring the war to an honourable conclusion. Greece could then withdraw from hostilities with her honour intact, whilst the Fuhrer looked forward to compensating them with his "sympathetic understanding".

The Princess was deeply shocked by the letter, fully aware of her father's antipathy towards Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party, she at once doubted the authenticity of his words. She looked carefully at what had been written and quickly noticed that there were some strange abnormalities. The letter opened with an unusual salutation, "My dear daughter," and ended, "Your affectionate Father". Usually her father greeted her with the affectionate "Frederike Baby," and signed off "Papi and Mami." Something was wrong! She suspected that the letter was either a forgery or written under pressure.

The Royal couple dismissed the German messenger, requesting that he return later for the reply that Von Angerer would take back to Germany on his return.

The King and the Prime Minister were once again consulted and Frederica told them of her suspicions. There was only one way to find out, the Crown Princess would have to speak directly to her father. So she phoned the family home.

She told Prince Ernst August that she had received his letter.

"Which one?", asked her father.

"The one in which you gave me a lot of advice", replied Frederica.

"Oh! That one", retorted the Duke laughingly.

"I had to tell you what I think, but you never listen to your Papi, do you?"

The Greek Crown Princess went very silent.

"Can you hear me?"

"Yes, I hear you." She replied.

"And do you understand", he queried.

"Yes, I understand perfectly", was her answer.

The problem was solved. The letter had been written under Nazi pressure. So Von Angerer was asked to return. During this second meeting he told Paul and Frederica that he was aware of the contents of the letter, and would like to elucidate further. He went on to tell them that the German Government appreciated that such a radical change of policy could only be carried out by a new leader. King George's Anglophile sentiments were too ingrained to allow a change of allegiance at this stage, and Metaxas himself was too deeply committed to the Allies to change course in mid-stream; it was therefore suggested that a suitably engineered palace coup should be arranged, and King George forced to abdicate. As a result Prince Paul would automatically succeed to the throne. In accordance with constitutional practice, the Prime Minister would then submit his resignation to the new King. The new King, however, would not ask Metaxas to carry on, but would accept the resignation and entrust the mandate to form a new Government to someone else, who with Prince Paul's blessing, would be willing to put into effect the new "peace with Italy" policy.

"What makes you think I would play such a role?", the Prince demanded angry at the insinuation.

The German, a personal friend of Field Marshal Goering, stated that he knew that the Prince's relationship with Metaxas was strained, moreover, Princess Frederica was German.

The Princess had listened silently to the conversation, but Von Angerer had gone too far.

"I am Greek. You understand, I am Greek. The day I married my husband, I became Greek. You understand! ...I am now more proud of this fact than ever before. Go back and tell them that .... Go away!" was her furious retort.

On January 4th, 1941 Metaxas wrote in his diary: ...

"...It has begun. Twelve (German) divisions. Against Yugoslavia? In order to

leave a road open towards Thessaloniki? So, it is aimed against us. What else could it be? And so now the early warnings of the Germans through Rangabe (Greek Ambassador to Berlin) make sense, as do those of yesterday through Angerer to the Crown Prince- and to Frederica through her father, that we should yield to Hitler! We would rather die!"[7]

On the 29th of January Metaxas was dead. "The Times" of January 30th had this to say:

"The Passing Of A Patriot."

"General Metaxas Dead.

General John Metaxas, the inspiration of Greece's victorious war effort died this morning at this home at Kifissia near Athens, aged 70. Just three months and two weeks after his historic NO (OCHI) to the Italian aggressors..... The news of General Metaxas' death was heard sadly in London. Only a few days ago, General Sir Archibald Wavell had found him at his best, boundless in courage, careful in tactics, the unquestioned leader of a united Greece."

King George immediately set about appointing a successor. He looked outside the political arena for someone to take on the job. He chose the Governor of the Bank of Greece, Alexander Koryzis, for his new Prime Minister.

On February 9th, "The Times" of London reported that Winston Churchill, very concerned, said:.. "We can be sure that the war will enter another phase of greater intensity. Hitler's partner, Mussolini, is smashed in Albania, but the Nazis, after they absorbed Hungary and threw Rumania into a tragic internal revolt, are already at the Black Sea, as well as in aerodromes and different bases....".

On the 22nd of February, in the Palace of Tatoi, residence of the King located in the Athenian suburb of the same name, arrived Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary. Shortly afterwards he issued the following statement:

"We hope that the same flame that Metaxas gave will continue with the new Prime Minister in the interests of a stable Government for Greece."

The Greek people supported the King's choice of Prime Minister. In a sense of unity, which largely explains the reason for the Army's successes against an enemy which was incomparably superior in numbers and equipment. As we have seen, Greece was fighting honourably for her freedom prepared for German attack from the Bulgarian border, and ready to fight a war within her own frontiers in Macedonia.

By March the 4th, the German Army had crossed into Bulgaria, and Hitler's

troops massed along the Greek border. In Athens, Anthony Eden and General John Dill were received by the King. The news of the British Foreign Secretary's arrival was kept secret for security reasons. The news, however, was quick to leak out, and within an hour or two of arrival, the Athenian population greeted their guests, by flying the Union Jack which was seen fluttering in the spring sunshine, from almost every roof top in the city.

American public opinion began to strengthen in support of the Allied stance in Europe. On March 17th, US newspaper headlines declared. "**NO COMPROMISE WITH THE DICTATORS.**", "**AMERICA UNITED BEHIND THE DEMOCRACIES**", and "**ALL-OUT AID FOR TOTAL VICTORY.**" President Roosevelt, reiterated, in a radio broadcast, full and every increasing aid until total victory was won for Britain, Greece, China and all governments in exile, whose homelands were temporarily occupied by the aggressors.

As Greece prepared for a German attack, Princess Frederica wrote to her parents, before all contact between the two countries was severed. I quote her letter in full, because it shows her clear commitment to Greece.

March 26, 1941

Dear Mami and dear Papi,

A Baron Von G. has let me know that he is here on behalf of the German Foreign Office and will go back tomorrow. I'm giving him this letter and perhaps even some cigarettes. This may be the last opportunity I will have to write to you and so I will quite openly speak my mind.

Everybody here is convinced that the Germans will be attacking us in one or two days. I would not be surprised if the same gentleman who is taking this letter back with him, had not already delivered the ultimatum to the German Embassy, and poor Erbach (the German Ambassador) will be waiting for the right minute to present it to our Government. And why all this? To help the Italians? They are beyond all help. They are through forever. We Greeks, our small country, have beaten them, and history will never forget this whatever happens. Should Germany attack Greece only to help the Italians, this would be the greatest glory imaginable for Greece. Two world powers against Greece!

Hurray!

The second reason which Germany could fabricate in order to attack us is England. I can literally hear people in Germany saying; "We have nothing against Greece of course, we admire them. But the Fuhrer has said, I will beat England wherever I find her."

Well, he will not find England in Greece. Those few hundred men which the dear Italians have brought to Greece would make no difference to England should the Germans attack us for this reason.

Hitler cannot beat England here, he could perhaps beat the Greeks and with the atmosphere prevailing here now, he would not find this very easy either. It is of course easier for the Germans to come here than go to England, and this is the only reason I can see which the Germans can have.

Naturally, they will first offer us to join the Axis, etc.etc.. I can hear people in Germany saying: "Why not follow the example of Rumania, Bulgaria and now Yugoslavia ?" Do you know that they promised to satisfy the territorial demands of Bulgaria, which means Salonica and Thrace? An outlet to the sea has been promised to Yugoslavia, at Greek expense, of course. Germany has fought (quite rightly) for her corridor, but this does not seem to stop her from creating new corridors. Is this a just World Order? Must we allow this ? If we join the Axis, we will lose our independence.

I know you will say "Yes, but only for the duration of the war." Yet who will guarantee this?

Should we join the Axis now, the first thing we shall have to do is to throw the English out; the second would be to invite the dear German army to occupy us, or take our harbours and airports; the third would be to beg for a financial and political adviser who will then be graciously granted; the fourth would be that, as we would be under the protection of the German army we would no longer need ours. It is much cheaper and more practical to demobilise, and so we shall send our soldiers home. The fifth would be that out of sheer love for the Axis and the new World Order, we would offer Thrace to Bulgaria and Salonica to Yugoslavia. Out of love for Italy, we shall withdraw our forces in Albania back to our old frontier and offer Italy the chance of preparing itself better for the next time or as we now belong to the Axis, we offer Italy out of friendship, Epirus, which they wanted from the very first.

We ourselves will no longer need a Royal Guard, the Germans in order to pay us extreme honour, will post German guards in front of our house. Instead of going to the Mitropolis[8] in state, we will go to premieres of Bismarck films and such like. Post, telephones, transport, propaganda and finance will be put in the much abler hands of the Axis and the new World Order

To join the Axis means either to give up one's independence willingly and without a struggle, or to quickly commit suicide out of fear to be killed.

You will probably be bewildered by this letter, I can understand this. But this is exactly what would happen, and I'm speaking from the Greek point of view. From

the German point of view, all this is of course without importance. Should we join the Axis, we would avoid bloodshed but nevertheless lose our country and our honour and all that willingly.

The Greeks of today would defend themselves against everybody, even if the whole world attacked them and there remained not the slightest trace of hope. We value glory and honour more than victory; not one Greek thinks otherwise at this moment, and I myself think the same.

There was a time when I thought with sadness of the possibility that Germany could hit this small land of heroes in the back but now I am just furious. The whole thing is a dirty trick and unworthy of the German army. I can and will not believe it until it happens. My German blood revolts against such meanness.

Perhaps you can no longer understand that I speak as I do. But I love these people and this country fanatically. Our soldiers are indeed gods and no longer humans in what they have achieved, and this in such an impassable terrain.

At the beginning of the war the women saved the situation in Epirus. They hauled ammunition up the mountains, they pushed the guns, they carried the food two and three times a day up the mountains, right through enemy fire just to lighten the men 18 burden during the struggle. The soldiers are full of admiration for the women of Epirus. It is thanks to them that the men halted the Italians, because the women brought what they needed on their own backs. I visit the wounded in the hospitals almost daily and talk with them. Wounded who have lost both legs are unhappy because they can no longer fight. Tears come in my eyes when I look at these people. They fight like lions at the front and when they come back they are like little children, so tender and gentle and moving.

In such moments it becomes obvious that Greece is not part of the Balkans. Greeks are a people apart, with a soul of heroes, who would not give up their freedom at any price and without a fight. Just now the Greek is as he must have been in ancient times, and I am glad to live through these times and proud that my son is the future king.

Every soldier carries a picture of little Constantine in his pocket. This was a New Year present from Palo to the soldiers. They still write.....

Georgie (who is behaving magnificently, especially since the death of the old man)[9] receives daily letters and telegrams from parents, wives and children announcing the death of members of their family with the words "Long live the King, Long live Greece." One of the wounded soldiers told Uncle Jacob[10] that he had lost a brother at the front and that he himself volunteered in order to avenge him. Now that he is wounded his seventeen year old son has volunteered to avenge him in turn.

You can see now perhaps the sort of atmosphere prevailing here. I was not at all sad when the old man died, and I believe that Palo was not either. Nobody speaks of him now. The new Prime Minister is an extremely nice and decent man. Palo had him in his committee at very beginning, when he tried to start a youth movement which was then completely spoiled by the old man.

But I must stop now. This letter has become a whole book. I hope you will not be too upset over all I have written, but I do value glory and honour more than victory. This is the way that people think here, not only the leaders but every little man. I shall hope to the very last moment that nothing will happen. It would make me so unhappy to be cut away, especially now that the brothers are fighting at the front and the attack against Russia will be starting soon. It will always be possible to try and send news through some neutral embassy, anyhow all this is only a transition. In one or two years we shall all sit together and talk all this over. What a good laugh we shall have over some of these things, and how happy we shall be that the anxiety we have had about each other is at long last over.

It is also insane and tragic that there is no sense in talking about it. Good will win, good in every country. I think sometimes that it would be better to read history than to make it. Aunt Marie[11] finds it is better and more interesting to experience history. She is perhaps right. She is a touching person and films everything that is possible or impossible. I have again a letter from her to you, and I am dying to know whether it is about things that have to do with her studies.[12]

I am sending you an article, in translation of course, which appeared in one of our newspapers and found colossal response. It is an open letter, so to say, from the Greek people to Hitler, written by the director of the newspaper. It is unfortunately very difficult to translate, but you will get the sense nevertheless. The newspaper was printed in eight editions that day. People just snatched it up.

I am so sorry that you cannot see the children. They are the most wonderful thing ever. Mami's book was the most terrific success with my daughter. We've got to look at it every morning at breakfast. But Tino would also like one now; he begins to like looking at pictures. But I must close now, I feel quite "Ramoli". I hope you can read this letter. A thousand greetings to the brothers. In thought I'm always near you, whatever happens. Nothing can come between us. I know how anxious you must be about us, but so are we about you.

May God bless and keep you and bring us all soon together again.......

Frederike-Luise

Baby."

The Germans invaded Greece on April 6th,1941.The first official announcement was made over the radio. Shortly afterwards the King addressed the nation.

"Hellenes! A new enemy insulted the honour of our country this morning. This occurred with no warning, at the same moment that the German government handed the Greek government a document announcing their action. German troops attacked our frontiers. Our heroic army, watchful guardian of the sacred soil of our country, is already defending it with its blood.

Hellenes! The Greek people who have proved to the world that they value honour above everything else, will defend it against this new enemy to the end. Attacked today by yet another empire, Greece, so small, is at the same time so great that she will allow no one to invade her. Our struggle will be hard and without mercy. We shall not be afraid. We shall bear all our sufferings and shall not shrink from any sacrifice. Victory is waiting for us at the end of this road, to crown Greece once again and for all time.

We have powerful allies, the British Empire with its indomitable will, and the United States of America with its inexhaustible resources. On the battlefields we are fighting side by side with our Yugoslav brothers who are shedding their blood with us for the salvation of the whole Balkan peninsula and for humanity.

We shall win with the help of God and the benediction of the Holy Virgin. Yes, we shall win! The history of nations will once again have to record that the country renowned for Marathon and Salamis does not waver, does not submit, does not surrender.

All together Hellenes, men, women and children, stand erect, clench your fists and be at my side, with the defenders of the Hellenic motherland of yesterday, of today and of tomorrow. Worthy of our ancestors, and example to your descendants, defenders of the freedom which sprung from the sacred bones of the Hellenes. Forward children of Hellas, for the supreme struggle, for you altars and your homes."

Like everyone else in Athens I listened to this rousing speech, and joined the call to action. Our morale was high, we knew our country had to fight two strong enemies, plus the Bulgarians. I do not think European history ever recorded such an unequal struggle. Greece faced Europe's best war machine with meagre resources and few troops, most of whom were committed to the Albanian front. In spite of this, the majority of people were delighted. Soldiers sang as they left their homes and families to play their part in the war. There were frequent air raids, but foolishly we refused to hide in the shelters, as we were all curious to see what was going on. Winston Churchill was very impressed by the courage of the Greeks:

"From now on people will no longer say that the Greeks fight like heroes, but

that heroes fight like Greeks!", was the British Prime Minister's description of morale in the country.

Princess Frederica did not lack this spirit. She wrote a long letter to her parents, so long in fact that it took her over a week to write, it records the German attack and her last days in Athens.[13]

"Athens, April 9, 1941

Dear Papi and dear Mami,

Who knows if you will ever get this letter. I will give it to Calliga (Marshal of the Court) to keep until he can find somebody to forward it to you.

Greece was overjoyed when the Yugoslavs overthrew Paul[14] because this meant one million more men in the army against the Germans, because we were of course quite sure the Germans would attack. The only question was when. At the time when Paul joined the Axis, we had quite dependable information that the Germans were going to hit the Greeks in the back, along the Bulgarian frontier, We were determined to fight alone, although we had practically no troops to defend the Bulgarian front with, as our whole army is facing the Italians. A country of eight million inhabitants can only call up a couple of hundred thousand men, with whom we are now winning the war against the Italians. We have only a couple of thousand men on the Bulgarian front. Nevertheless, we did not wish to allow the Germans to enter without a fight. Even if we stood quite alone.

Then Paul was overthrown, which meant for us that the Yugoslavs would fight, and that we would no more stand alone.

On the sixth, at dawn, Erbach presented a document to our Prime Minister in which the violation of Greek soil by the Germans was announced. There was no question of an ultimatum or conditions. It seems that Erbach was barely able to speak, and asked our Prime Minister to give him his hands as a mark of personal friendship.

Ever since Sunday morning the Germans are attacking the Greek frontier with ten divisions based in Bulgaria. Today is Wednesday, and they have not gone one step forward. They are attacking with Stukas, tanks, artillery and with everything they have, our couple of thousand men who are hardly sufficient to occupy the line in peacetime. One fort was captured twice by the Germans but is still in our hands. What our people achieve with their great soul is such that you feel like kneeling before them.

Since this morning we are cut off from our troops. The Germans have entered Greece through Yugoslavia. Look at your map and you will see what happened. On

the lowest corner of Yugoslavia, a Yugoslav division of 40.000 men surrendered without a fight. Without a fight have the Germans reached Greek soil through Yugoslavia and are now marching on Salonica. We have no news from the town which probably is already in German hands. The last we heard was that the Germans were unable to break the Greek front from Bulgaria. The front stands and will stand until they are all captured from the back. And all this because the Yugoslavs let the Germans through without a fight. The Greek Army has proved itself the finest one of the whole world. Because the Germans attacked the Greeks with their whole might, the Greeks have thrown them back. But now must these heroes, through the guilt of another land, that has no soul, be rolled up from behind.

I would like to know if a German officer will ever be able to look a Greek soldier in the eyes without utter shame. Eight million Greeks fight against 180 million Germans and Italians. When you read our papers and see the Greek-Italian war communique and on the other hand the Greek-German one, it does seem like a joke. Two world powers against small Greece. What a glory for us and what a shame for the others.

We will now see how quickly the Germans will advance from Salonica. Because now begin the mountains. Today, Thursday, the news is still worse. The Yugoslavs have given up. They have let the Germans through, and so they have outflanked our second line. Nothing can hold them now, and we must leave.

We are being bombed night and day, which is quite amusing.[15] We were with friends in town last evening when the sirens began to shriek. Naturally we climbed on the roof, and heard swarms of aircraft, bombs and shooting. Suddenly we heard a whistle and somebody said a bomb was falling. I can tell you that I found myself in the cellar quicker than I thought. Two or three times in the night we had to get out.

On the first evening Piraeus was bombed, which I watched with Palo from Aunt Ellen's[16] house. As the whole thing lasted too long, we drove out to Tatoi in the moonlight. We went to bed and were suddenly thrown out by a terrific explosion. I was quite convinced that half of Tatoi was in ruins. Palo ran out on the balcony and said at once this was not a bomb, but an explosion in Piraeus where a ship full of munitions had been blown up. I was still convinced it was a bomb, and was not going to be talked out of it. The result was a family quarrel like the one during the earthquake.

We will remain on Greek soil as long as possible. Greece has many islands. But the King cannot allow himself to be captured even if he is treated with every honour. The King represents the country and when one believes in one's victory, as we do then one must leave. Leopold[17] behaved like a soldier and not like a King. Palo cannot remain here because he has married a German wife, and his staying here could appear as if he wished to play the Quisling.

We cannot help our people any more because the Germans would stop our contact with them. The Germans will never be able to govern the Greeks. Of this I am quite sure. We deeply believe and are convinced that in the end victory will be ours. Just as you do. The future will decide. God keep you and the brothers. I pray that the brothers come through this war safely. What lies in store for us I do not know. We will end up perhaps in America.

Don't worry too much. I know that you are in despair, I know that you are thinking of us all the time, exactly as I do of you. I will try to get news to you somehow. Some possibility will be found.

We are leaving everything behind, and are only taking the bare necessities. You may be able to get some information on whether everything here is all right. We leave everything in Messi's (lady in waiting) and Calliga's hands.

I believe that Aunt Alice[18] wishes to remain here...I know that I, and Palo more so, will be homesick, because we love this land and its people. And they love us deeply. I know for sure that we will come back.

How will Germany ever be able to eradicate this shame from history. I speak so bitterly because of my love for this country.

Tell the brothers that I both see and understand everything as a whole. Greece is the only country that is in the right, and has no guilt whatsoever concerning this war, and who defended herself most bravely and who was not defeated by the Germans. Our army has won everywhere, even against the Germans ......

I know exactly what you are going through and I feel for you deeply. For everything will be all right again in a couple of years. This is how it went in the last war too. I do so wish I could help you in your worries. Don't forget that Palo and I are happy together, and that is the main thing and will comfort you in your concern over our fate. I am young enough to feel quite enterprising even at this moment. I am taking with me H. Ypsilanti[19] to Crete, Isi, a nanny and two dependable servants. Old Yanni will guard the house. What a topsy-turvy world this is. If it had not been so sad one could really laugh.

Our garden is at this moment so beautiful, full of flowers but we must not think of this, it is sentimental and does not help.

I wonder who will take over our yacht. Perhaps Goering. Great good may it do him.

The misery that will fall over this people tears at my heart. What can one do ? We have all of us done our best, and *we* can hold our heads high.

I must stop now. The babies are fine. Thank heavens they know nothing of all our feelings.

I kiss you tenderly, and the dear brothers. I know how they think and this helps. We are a closely knit family and this is more than many other people can say.

God bless and keep you. Your example strengthens me.

Your always devoted
Baby
Frederike-Luise

Continued;

Today is Saturday, and we are still here, thank God. The Germans crossed Yugoslavia and joined with the Italians in Albania. Well, the Yugoslavians are no Greeks. I heard over the German radio that the Germans captured 80,000 Greeks on the Bulgarian front. If we only had them! All in all there were 12-15000 men up there, who held the attack of 10 divisions for 3 days, and only surrendered with their general when they ran out of their last shot of ammunition."

"The Germans advancing through Yugoslavia in a straight line reached Salonica and cut off our troops from any possibility of contact with the outer world.

Paul[20] was very ashamed of his country. When I asked him how it was possible for 12,000 men to hold 10 divisions, while a Yugoslavian division of 40,000 men surrendered without a fight, he answered 'The difference is that we are swine and you are not.' (and he is right there).

Yesterday night we had air alarms from 9 to 1 and from 4 to 6. Palo and I were on the Lycabetus and looked on. It was quite madly exciting. I must say the noise is terrific. I'm always very brave when I am near a shelter. Otherwise I like it less. What a situation. Here am I sitting nicely in Athens being bombed by Germans.

The whole night through the children sat in a cold damp cellar, which is quite safe. They are wrapped in thick blankets and sleep.

Today, Monday 14th, the news is a little better. We have managed to establish a new line in the mountains. Pray God, it holds.

The misery that has fallen on the civilian population is indescribable. I've just come from a hospital for civilians and it is heartbreaking to see small wounded children, whose parents have been killed, or young women whose babies perished. At times it is nearly unbearable.

I do not understand why Belgrade had to be destroyed. It was declared an open city by the Yugoslavs, and now it lies in ruins.

How many more cases there must be, like the ones I have just described. It is really dreadful.

You keep asking us on the telephone (before the Germans attacked) that Palo and I should not go. If it comes to the worst we must go....................Should Palo stay, he would not be allowed to help anyone, because the Germans would see to it that nobody would bother about him. We would not be allowed to visit hospitals, or speak with anybody, and generally we would be cut off from everything.

Or the Germans, who have always wished to play Palo against his will......They can choose other people for such things......."

One battle sticks in my mind when I think of those early days of the war. The Crown Princess alludes to it in her letter. The battle took place on the defensive "Metaxas Line", which was situated at Roupel on the Bulgarian border. The Germans marched from the north, and surrounded the position. Roupelion is the old name for this fortress in Macedonia. The site of many ancient battles where the Greeks and later the Byzantines fought to protect the area from foreign invaders. It was here that Greek troops were garrisoned to protect their homeland from the new enemy from the north. Christos Zalokostas, wrote an account of this battle, in his book with a prologue by the Chief of Staff of the Army, Field Marshal, Alexander Papagos. He makes clear that the defenders of Roupel refused to surrender, despite the fall of Thessaloniki. Low in ammunition, the whole garrison was forced to fight hand to hand until the ancient fortress was captured. On securing the place the Germans demanded that all British soldiers be turned over to them. They were surprised to learn that there were not any. The defenders of Roupel were all Greeks.

This so impressed the Germans that as a tribute to the courage of the Army, describing it as majestic: the Greek flag was allowed to remain flying, and the officers were allowed to keep their swords, whilst a guard of honour was drawn up and the garrison commander invited to inspect it. On examination of their new prize they found the words **"Molon Lave"** inscribed on the walls. The ancient battle-cry of the Spartans, meaning, "Come and Take It!". Graffitti, scrawled on another wall proclaimed that..."Thermopylae was defended by 300 men; Roupel by only 80!" The spirit of ancient Greece still lived. Outside lay many German dead. The Commanding officer praised the Greeks for their brave stand, and allowed the surviving troops to leave with their weapons. The soldiers headed for the mountains, meeting many others, remnants of similar engagements in other places on the way.

In Athens the news of this terrible German victory, was broadcast by the King.

"My Army exhausted by this hard war, against powerful enemies has written the most glorious pages of military history. It has continued the battle against the Germans with incredible heroism. The circumstances in which our Army in Epirus has signed an armistice with the enemy are still unknown. We, my government and the Field Marshal, are not aware of the details. Their action does not hinder the will of the nation.

The King and the government are for the continuation of the battle with the remnants of our forces who will struggle to achieve our national aims. We are obliged to leave for Crete to do this. We act so, only to fight for freedom until the end of history, from free Greek soil. This will be the reward for the great sacrifices of our nation. Hellenes, do not be discouraged, even in this moment of grief. I will always be with you. The justice of our cause and God will help us to succeed until we achieve victory. With all the sorrows and dangers, which together, we have been through, and which we will go through again, be faithful to the idea of one, united, free nation. Intensify your will. Match your Hellenic pride against the enemy's aggression and the enemy must fail. Believe that the good days will come back. Long live the Nation!"

The King's moving oration robbed us of words and moved us to tears.

The entire country was plunged into a terrible sadness; everybody expected the Germans to march into central Greece at any moment. On that Thursday we went to Church to take Communion. The radio told us that the royal family did the same thing. We were all frightened that the invaders would seek vengeance on the population due to the stiff resistance we had put up to halt the German advance. My brother Michael came to kiss us good-bye. He was assigned to the destroyer "Panther", which was shortly due to set to sea. My mother tried to arrange a passage for us to England through the British embassy, but this was to prove impossible, because the British had many of their own citizens in the country, and priority had to be given to them.

My father was in poor health in London. He could do very little for his family in Greece. We knew that tragic days lay ahead.

On April 13th, 1941, Winston Churchill wrote to General Maitland Wilson, commander of British forces in Greece, saying... "I am happy to hear that King George is not leaving Greece yet. It is a brilliant opportunity to record his name in history forever. If he himself, or any regiment of his army is obliged to leave Greece for Cyprus, every help will be granted to them, and they will be given every means for this transportation."

Reports from the front line painted a desperate picture. Major General Tsolakoglou, had contacted the enemy in order to discuss capitulation. After the occupation, Tsolakoglou was appointed Prime Minister by the Nazis.



Princess Frederica visiting the army.

Unlike the Major-General, the government refused every German overture for surrender, but the fact remained that the situation was dangerous and desperate. In response to this, King George called for a meeting of the Crown Council to be held at Army headquarters and invited members of the Government under Alexander Koryzis to attend, along with opposition leaders, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Armed Forces, General Alexander Papagos. The King briefed the assembled gathering on the situation at the front, and asked for advice. The consensus, was that Greece should capitulate. He was reminded that continental Europe had surrendered within 45 days, but Greece had fought the Axis for six whole months. There was now nothing more to be done. The King listening carefully to what was said was reminded of the words of Leonidas at Thermopylae, many centuries ago:

"We shall defend down to the last man."

He went on to thank his Government for attending the Council meeting saying......

"I would like to tell you that I will continue fighting the enemy even if I were left alone. Even to the last square inch of Greek soil, and after that from abroad, on the side of our allies. If any of you lacks that courage, he should leave right now."

The Crown Council meeting was over. Prime Minister Koryzis saluted the King, bowed and kissed his hand in an unusual manner. Later it was announced that he committed suicide on returning to his home. The King sensing something amiss, asked Secretary Maniadakis to follow the Prime Minister home to insure that he was all right. As Maniadakis walked into Koryzis's house, he heard the fatal shot.

The death of the Prime Minister deeply shocked Greece. The King himself, temporarily assumed the post until a replacement could be found. It was at this moment that the advancing German army crossed the border and progressed south, our Army fought a rear-guard action and struggled to re-group. The King was in a fix. He asked several leading politicians to assume the premiership, but they all refused. Nobody wanted to assume the mantle of power and surrender it so quickly to the advancing German army of occupation.

So for the next few days, King George served both as head of State and leader of his own government. The situation brought the words of Plato spinning into my head:

"Royal power is a science, that we must discover and then we shall see who the false politicians are. Men who pretend to be politicians but who are not. Although they persuade many and separate them from the wise King."

These Greek political leaders behaved in much the same way as the "false politicians", whom Socrates criticised. Three days later, the Cretan President of the Bank of Greece accepted the post of Prime Minister.

His name was Emanuel Tsouderos.

It soon became clear that the battle was lost. The German advance on Athens was unstoppable. Queen Frederica told me how she "felt hate and horror for the Germans." So, the royal family took the decision to leave Athens and continue fighting the war from Crete.

Two days later the King addressed the nation over the radio.

"The cruel destiny of war compels us, we and the heir to the throne (Prince Paul) as well as the lawful government to leave Athens and to transfer the capital to Crete, whence we shall be able to continue the struggle that the will of the entire nation and the duty to defend the country's independence and territorial integrity, laid upon us, after an unprovoked attack on us by two empires.

Our will and that of the Greek Government and people, as already affirmed many times; called for resistance by the Greek armed forces right up to the end. In spite of the unequal nature of the struggle, particularly after the invasion of our soil by the Germans, we have fiercely opposed the enemy with the support of British Forces that came to our aid, and fought so brilliantly and are still fighting within the boundaries of Greece, for a just cause. Although exhausted after six months of victorious and hard fighting against a much stronger enemy, our troops have written the most glorious pages of our military history, and have continued the struggle against the German offensive with unheard of heroism.

We still do not know the real reason why the army of Epirus signed an armistice with the enemy, without our knowledge and without the cognizance of the General Commander-in-Chief and the government[21]."

"This signature in no way restricts the free will of the nation., the King and the government, which is manifested in the continuation of the struggle, using all the forces remaining to us, to safeguard our national interest.

With this aim in view we are compelled to go to Crete. We are leaving in order to be able freely, and from free Greek territory, to continue the struggle against the invaders until a final victory is achieved, that shall repay us all fully for the nation's great sacrifices."

The Germans entered and took control of Athens on April 28th, 1941. The sound of the marching soldiers still resounds in my ears. All the bloodshed had been in vain. The Greeks were familiar with oppression, after all the Turks had controlled and ruled Greece for four hundred years. Another occupation was a hard pill to swallow. Was the same thing about to happen again ? Those of us who had illegal radios could listen to the broadcasts from the government-in-exile in Crete.. Transmissions that always began:

"Hellenes, we will continue the war....."Invariably the Germans intercepted these broadcasts, bombarding the frequency with static and rendering the words of our leaders unintelligible. Thus we came the newest possession of the Third Reich.

The Greeks are a proud people and faced their oppressors with pride and courage, even Hitler acknowledged this indominatable spirit. In a speech he made to the Reichstag on May 4th, 1941 he said....:

"It was sad for me, very sad and bitter, being a German, because all through my education and during the years of my profession, later, I developed a deep respect for the civilisation and the arts of the nation, which was the cradle of beauty and human splendour. It was, I say, sad for me to follow the development of events, and not be able to change their course. We cherish sincere sympathy for the unfortunate Greek people, who have been defeated. They are the victims of their King and their leaders. They fought bravely and even their enemies are unable to deny them respect.

History requires me to confirm that amongst the enemies who were against me, the Greek soldiers fought with the greatest courage and surrendered only when there was no alternative. The number of Greek prisoners is 8,000 officers and 210,000 soldiers. It is impossible to judge them in the same way as prisoners of other countries. I refer to the armies of Epirus and Macedonia which were surrounded and obliged to surrender and lay down their arms as a result of the German-Italian advance. Thus the Greek prisoners have been released, or they will be released because of their heroic actions.."

In spite of this expression of admiration of the Greek Army, Hitler ordered Greece to be divided amongst her neighbours. On August 16th, the Ionian Islands were presented to Italy as was Epirus. Most of Macedonia and Thrace was given to the Bulgarians. The Germans retained for themselves central Macedonia, the Peleponnese, the islands and central Greece, which included Attica and Athens. Disregarding Hitler's protestations to the contrary, many soldiers were taken prisoner, Those who did manage to escape joined the Army which was in exile with the government. This nucleus fought with the British in the desert war and at El Alamein.

Shortly after the fall of Greece, Turkey signed a non-aggression pact with the Germans; their old allies of World War 1. On June 19th of that year,the British "Daily Express" reported that "The Turks" had signed a "friendship pact with Germany," and went on to state that: "Future talks had been arranged and non-aggression arranged. Terms of a non-aggression friendship treaty between Germany and Turkey within the limits of the present commitment of both countries, were announced in Berlin last night.....Mr Sarajoglou, Turkish Foreign Minister, in a statement broadcast last night spoke of the solid basis of friendship provided by the past with Germany."

Turkey maintained a transparent neutrality throughout the War. Those who wanted to escape from occupied Greece had to face the dangers of a long sea voyage to either Syria or Egypt, rather than the short sea crossing to Turkey, where the danger of being turned over to the Germans was very great.

My fiancé and future husband, Sophocles Papanicolaou, accompanied King George when the Court and government left for Crete. Arrangements had been made for Princess Frederica and her two children to travel from mainland Greece to the island by warship. Unfortunately the ship in question was bombed, and they were forced to leave by air, which was a much more dangerous expedition. Their flying boat put down at Malame in the middle of an air raid, which sent the royal party scurrying for shelter. This was particularly frightening for the children. Constantine was a baby of 10 months and Sophia only two and a half. Nobody was hurt in the attack, just shaken. A car was eventually found and the group drove off to the nearest village. The Princess was concerned about her husband, as she did not know his whereabouts.

The King with a very limited Court, consisting of his brother and only three other members, Levidis, Kinatos and my husband, Sophocles, arrived safely in Crete on the 23rd April. They established themselves at the Villa Knossos, which had been the home of the archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans, who was responsible for the excavations at the site after which the villa was named. For ten days Paul and Frederica were apart, both frantic for news of each other's safety. It was at this time that Crete came under heavy air attack which marked the commencement of the battle of Crete. The situation worsened by the minute, and the King and his companions had to take to the mountains to avoid capture by the German parachutists who spearheaded the invasion. The King's party grew as he was joined by Prime Minister Tsouderos, members of the cabinet, the British ambassador, Sir Michael Palairat and other members of his staff. The group climbed high into the mountains as German aircraft whined overhead. All were aware that if the King and the Prime Minister were captured, all hope of continued resistance against the Nazis would be lost. The going was tough, and the group had to spend one night sheltering in a cave with a shepherd. From there, travelling under the cover of night, they reached Panayia. The British Military attache, Colonel Blunt, attempted unsuccessfully to contact British military headquarters by radio. It was imperative that the King leave Crete immediately.

The journey continued through the White Mountains (Lefka Ori) on foot, and sometimes on the back of a donkey. They trekked for two days until they reached a small bay near Sfakia at two o'clock in the morning. They were saved by sheer luck. Blunt was able to signal to a passing warship, which turned out to be British.[22] The naval vessel sent a lifeboat ashore to pick up the party of unknown survivors, which to the surprise of the rescuers turned out to be a very distinguished collection of gentlemen! They were taken from Crete to Alexandria, in Egypt, and so this was how the King and the Prime Minister survived the battle of Crete, and were transported

to safety. On arrival in Alexandria on June 1st, the King was given a hero's welcome. For his courage under fire on Crete, King George was awarded the British D.S.O. The only reigning monarch to receive this decoration.

Prince Paul did not leave Crete with the King, but instead stayed to find his family, and flew to Alexandria in a much less dangerous journey than that of the King. The King and the Crown Prince were reunited in Alexandria to a tumultuous welcome from the Egyptians and the large Greek population in the city. Mr Salvagio, the leader of the Greek community greeted his monarch saying....:

"We ourselves and our sons are at your disposal. We all want to be near you and struggle with you to the end..... "

The exiled King quickly set to work to reorganise the Greek army and navy in order to set it at the disposal of the Allied cause, and thus play its part in final victory.

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16. Aunt Ellen. Princess Nicholas of Greece. Mother of Marina Duchess of Kent.
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22. The ship was the destroyer HMS Decoy.

CHAPTER THREE

The War Years and Nazi Occupation: 1941–44

On that Acropolis where Pericles spoke the word "Democracy"
On that sacred rock where humanity learned her rights,
On that rock where beauty of spirit joins human beauty
And where full co-ordination of spirit and matter
Gives reality to life on earth.

On that Acropolis, so many wisdoms paid tribute.
As Ernest Renan writes:
"Oh! Déesse. Oh! Beauté. Dont le culte signifie
Raison et sagesse."[1]
On that sacred rock where divinity reaches humanity
And where the Apostle Paul gave his first sermon
To saint Denis and the Athenians.
On that Acropolis, gentle humanity learned Christianity
On that same rock, in the middle, unfurls our
Honoured Greek Flag
Flanked by the swastika and the Italian tri-colour.
That we called, "the Crucifixion"!

The Army had battled bravely, but the Country had fallen to the Germans. A tragic four year long occupation now began. The Nazi stranglehold grew harsher day by day. Hitler berated the Greeks, yet we thanked God that our King, his family and the Government were safely out of Greece, and had escaped the indignity of capture by the occupying forces. The struggle would continue as our leaders and the greater part of the military were free. On the 25th of April, the entire fleet sailed for

to safety. On arrival in Alexandria on June 1st, the King was given a hero's welcome. For his courage under fire on Crete, King George was awarded the British D.S.O. The only reigning monarch to receive this decoration.

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Alexandria. There were 20 ships, 210 regular and 493 reserve officers along with 2,180 sailors, commanded by Rear Admiral Kavadias.

My brother, Michael Maris, was liaison officer aboard the ship "Panthir". Along with the Navy, the Air Force, too was able to fly out to Egypt. Numerous members of the Army, commandeered whatever boats they could and joined this exodus. The battle continued....

Life in Greece was very hard. Food was scarce, and the limited supplies were quickly seized by the German soldiers. Notices bearing the word, "VERBOTEN"[2], began to appear all over. The Germans requisitioned buses and trains, cinemas and theatres, which were forbidden to the local population. Children were dying of starvation, often in the streets. Dead bodies were to be seen, sprawled on the pavements. Hungry crowds foraged for leftovers in the garbage heaps outside the German camps. Families carried their dead to cemeteries. In every respect the situation was desperate!

I remember seeing a skeletal child, scarcely able to stand, hobbling across the street. A German Military car stopped, and a young officer who could have been no more than 25, got out, and to our horror, grabbed the child by the arm and threw him in the air leaving him lying in a crumpled heap on the road. We took the boy to hospital, and were told by the young Greek doctor, that cruelty such as this was nothing unusual, indeed was a commonplace occurrence by the Army of occupation, "... and to think", said the doctor, "that I studied medicine in their country!"

The Germans behaved babariously, but the Italians on the other hand were much more human. From time to time we would see their soldiers giving a loaf of bread to a starving child, or helping an old woman across the street. Often putting themselves at risk in order to help people in their times of stress. The colourful Italian uniforms along with their plumed helmets made a colourful picture in those gloomy days.

During the early weeks of our occupation, news spread that the King was organising our military forces in North Africa, and at home we saw the emergence of underground organizations, whose function was to harass the enemy. The Germans knew what was going on, and worked hard to disarm the Greek patriots.

Frederica and her family had arrived safely in Egypt. Her uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten (Dickie), was told of her worries about contacting her family in Germany to reassure them of her safety and that of her family. Lord Mountbatten advised her to write via his sister, Queen Louise of Sweden. The letter gives an accurate picture of the situation at the time.

"

Alexandria, Egypt, May 30th, 1941

Dear Aunt Louise,

I am delighted to have an opportunity of writing to you, but please excuse this horrible scribble, but I left my fountain pen at home.

Palo and I met Dickie (Lord Louis Mountbatten) here after he had been sunk for the fourth time in this war. He seemed very well and cheerful, and it was a pleasure seeing him here.

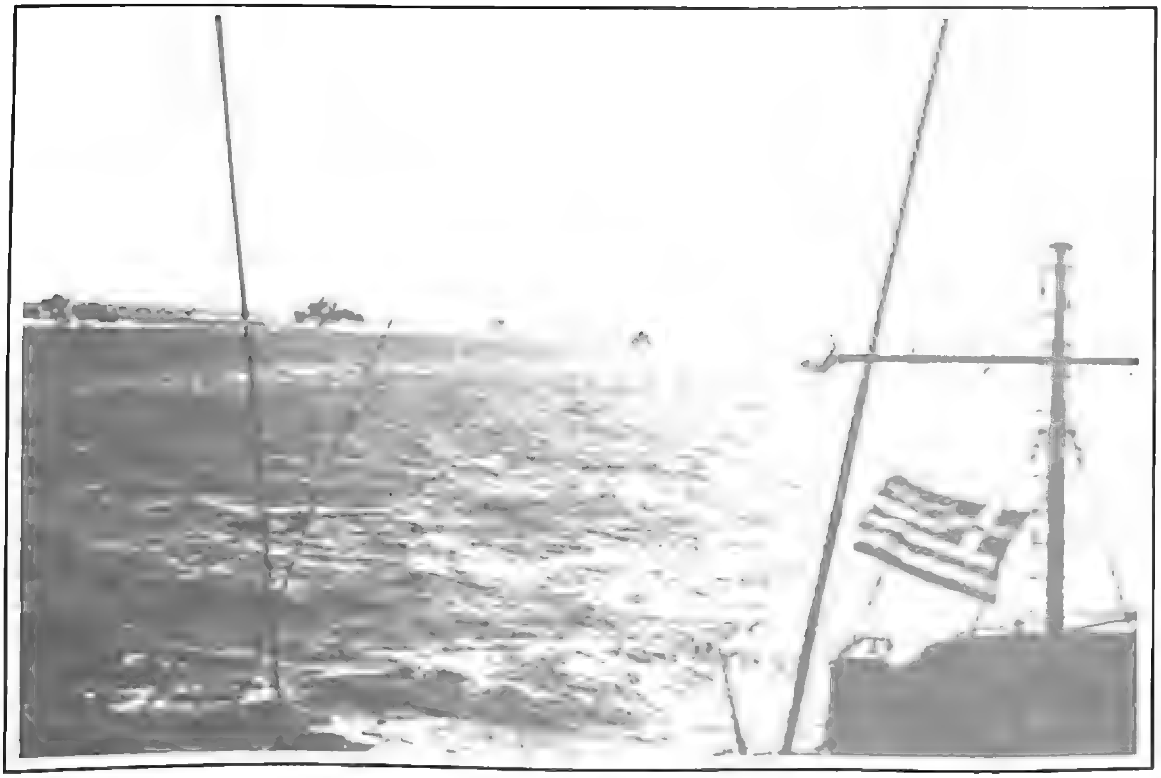
I wanted to tell you that Palo, the children and myself are very well. We arrived here two weeks before Palo's brother, after having gone through a very hard time.

When we left Alice she was in very good health. I left with the children a day before Palo and his brother, by plane very early in the morning. Never shall I forget the moment of saying good-bye to Palo just before stepping into the launch that took us out to the plane, because I did not know whether we would see him again as flying was not exactly safe at that moment. The moment we arrived in Crete there was an air-raid on, and we sat in a ditch with both children pressed on the ground, while bombs were whistling down right and left of us. The planes were very low and we could see the bombs falling. What was very comforting was the thought that if a bomb hits you, you would not even feel it, and if it does not hit you, all the better.

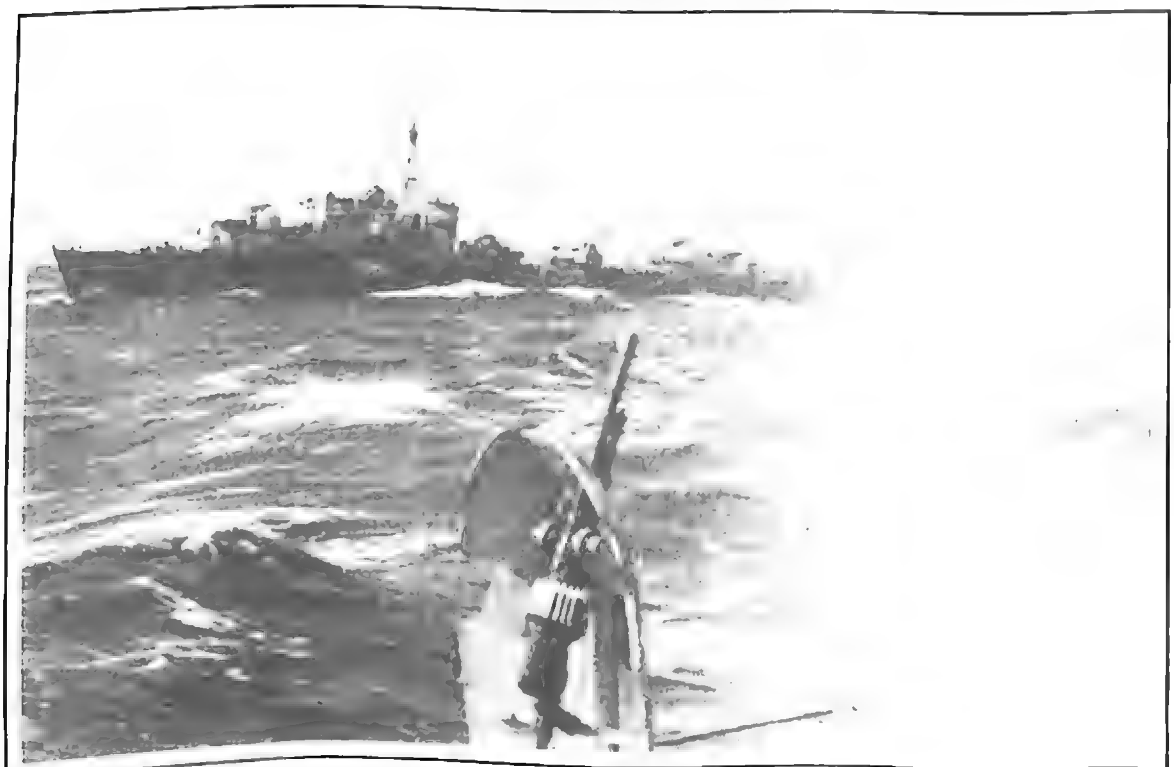
They dropped about 50 bombs around us, but we got through all right, awfully proud to have been under fire. It took us the whole day by car to reach one village where we should stay. I had no food for the children on the road, an no nappies to change the little one when he was wet. In one village a woman gave me a towel, which I tore to pieces and wrapped him in.

When we arrived nothing was prepared for us, naturally, and I had no bed for my little boy to sleep in. So I took two armchairs, put them together, and spread a blanket over it. It looked quite comfortable, but the next day he was absolutely eaten up by bugs and fleas, but so was I, in fact all of us. The next day Palo came, thank God, and I felt much better.

We spent about a fortnight in that place, which after having got used to it, we began to like. We washed the floor with hot water to get rid of the animals, and after some time we were fairly comfortable. Then came the time for us to move further. After a most frightening but uneventful aeroplane trip we arrived safely at our present destination. Thank God Palo was with us this time, and I did not have to worry about him, because he and his brother were supposed to separate for safety's sake.



The Greek warships during the war



... Palo's brother joined us, after having gone through the most dramatic experience. Now we are all together, thank God, except Alice (Princess Andrew of Greece) and Ellen (Princess Nicholas and mother of Marina, Duchess of Kent). I am delighted I did not stay with Alice and Ellen ...

Please give my love to my dear parents and beloved brothers. I know they are thinking of us all the time, like I am thinking of them always. Tell them not to worry, that as long as I have got my family, I shall be happy. A photograph of all of them is with me wherever I go. Tell them to remember that if one is as united in one's thoughts as we are, space and time play no role at all. After the war we will all meet again, brothers and friends all over the world, and try and build a happier world for our children. The only hope for starting again is to find our personal friends again, no matter on which side they were, because our personal friends don't ever change.

I am dying for news, because I love them all so much. If you can please let me know something, we will soon go very far south, to Cape Town, I should think. At least one sees the world. Something which I always wanted to do.

My two maids left me in the lurch, half-way here. So God knows what's happened to them ....

Now I must stop. It is most kind of you to have listened to such a long story so patiently, but I was encouraged by Dickie to write to you about it. Will you please tell Tiny that Philip[3] is very well and behaving beautifully. Palo sends his best love to the brothers and my parents, and so do I. God bless them ....

I kiss your hand, dear Aunt Louise,
Your grateful
Freddy.
I am longing for your news."

On receipt of Frederica's letter, the Queen of Sweden forwarded the letter to Blankenburg, adding her own letter to her cousin, the mother of Greece's Crown Princess.

" Ulriksdal, Stockholm.
July 10th. 1941

My dear Sissy,

Aunt Irene wrote in her last letter to my distress for you that you did not know the whereabouts of Frederike and her children, in fact knew nothing since they left Athens. I wired Marina[4] a few days ago to try and find out but have not yet had an answer. To my joy and relief for you and your family it does not matter, as I received

the enclosed from Frederike yesterday afternoon, sent to me by my brother, Dickie, when he got home.

How wonderfully brave and plucky, and a charming and sweet person your daughter must be judging from her touching letter. The only time I met her was the last time we both met, at Dolla's and Berthold's wedding.

I had of course heard much about her from Tiny. May I say how much I feel for you, all you have gone through, and are going through now, cut off from Frederike, and your anxiety for all your sons, and then too the great sorrow of losing your father.

If you think you ought not to send a letter abroad, write to me all you want said, and I will copy it, and send it in my letter to Frederike. Please send a letter or letters to me to the Swedish Legation in Berlin; there is a courier post every day, so your letter will reach me quickly and safely.

It is a wee comfort to me in these times of misery and unhappiness for all, if I can at least act as go-between of family news for some relations and friends now, alas, so cut off of news of each other. I saw in the papers today that Frederike's brother-in-law had arrived in South Africa, so I imagine, of course, that she, Palo and children are there too. A nice and good climate for the tiny children.

With kind remembrances and thoughts to you and your husband.

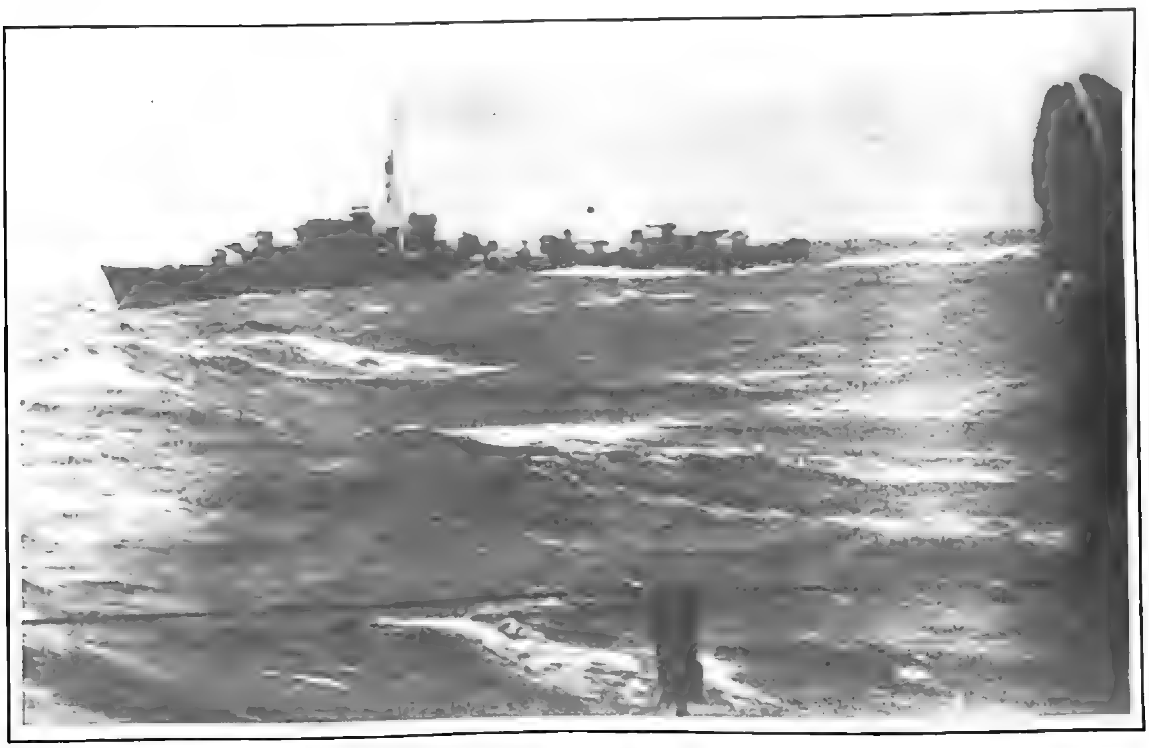
From your affectionate cousin,
Louise[5]

The stay in Egypt was a short one, whilst in Alexandria, Frederica harnessed the Greek community to form a charity in order to send much needed food and medicines back to Greece. Alexandria,named for Alexander the Great, was Egypt's main Mediterranean port, lying at the delta of the Nile. The city had grown rich due to the influx of Greeks who had helped set up the cotton industry, which had become the main source of Egyptian exports. The descendants of these Greeks constituted an important segment of the Egyptian business community. People such as Kotsika[6], were not colonists eager to enrich themselves at the expense of the Egyptians, but had built a hospital and schools in Alexandria, which made them popular with their hosts, and they had the financial means to assist their compatriots back home in Greece.

The family sailed from Port Said aboard the troop-ship "Nieuw Amsterdam", on June 27th. The South African Government had offered to house the King and his entourage. The King was eager to visit the country, contact General Smuts and the Greek community in South Africa, in order to solicit aid for the War effort. Although it was decided that the King and Crown Prince would be based in London, whilst other members of the family including Frederica and the children would remain in



Michael Maris, sub-lieutenant R.H.N., Navigating and A.S.D.I.C. Officer, brother of author Lilika, inspecting the horizon with Romanos Nicolaides, Lieutenant R.H.N., on H.M.R.H.S. Corvette Tourbasis.



The Greek Royal Navy during the Normandy invasion.

South Africa. So they set sail for Durban. Arriving on July 7th, where the Greek party disembarked, some to remain in South Africa, and others including the King and Crown Prince in transit, en route to London.

Sophocles Papanicolau was asked to contact members of the Greek community in South Africa in an effort not only to seek volunteers for the Military serving further north in the desert, but also to seek financial assistance. We must remember that this was a Government in exile, and to be quite frank it was penniless! As a result of these pleas, a wealthy businessman donated his house in Pretoria to serve as the embassy of his country. While this was going on the King and Crown Prince held meetings with General Smuts: ironically a close friend of Churchill's,[7] who agreed to assist his Greek allies as far as he was able.

The King, Prince Paul and the royal party sailed to England on "The Durban Castle" on August 25th. The voyage took them to Trinidad and they arrived in Liverpool on September 21st.

Frederica stayed behind. With difficulty she found a house for herself and the children, and she then set to work to found "The Greek Sailors Club", ably assisted by a committee comprising amongst others, Mrs. Loula Nomikos, Maria Routareli, Mrs. Loverdos and Mrs. Nadia Rees. This Committee included both Greeks and South Africans. The ladies cooked Greek food, providing books and music so that sailors had a home from home when their ships anchored in Cape Town. This Sailors' house remained until the end of the War.

On November 14th, Frederica wrote to her parents from Cape Town, once again using Queen Louise as intermediary. The letter did not reach Blankenburg until February 10th,1942!

" Cape Town, November 1941

Dear Mami, dear Papi and dear brothers,

As I presume that this letter will reach you about Christmas, I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. All my thoughts will be with you, and I know how much you will be thinking of me.

It is unbelievable that we shall celebrate Christmas in the greatest heat of the summer. I can't imagine how this will be.

I think of you all the time, and I am happy to get your news from time to time through dear Louise. Pray God, you will continue to be safe. How long will this terrible situation last. I am afraid long, very long. I think that this war will last much longer than the last one, and how much greater the misery.

The news we get every now and then from home is dreadfully painful and shocking. Nothing has disappointed me more, and robbed me of all illusions than the fact that the Italians, as well as the Bulgarians, were allowed into Greece. I would never have believed such a disgraceful action possible. What has become of military honour?

Our wounded have all been thrown out of the hospitals, and must go about begging. Greeks are allowed into two of all the hospitals.

Out of all the houses of the family, ours is the only one which has been commandeered. I am convinced that this has been done on purpose, as we did not play the game of certain people, and Palo refused to become Quisling. Who knows who is sleeping in our lovely big bed, and who lives in the sweet nursery. Swine! But all this is not as bad as the thought of the Italians and Bulgarians in our country....

The news about Christian made me very happy. How well I can understand him and the brothers.

Naturally, to us everything seems different, and what you cannot understand is to us, everything is a means to an end.

"Once the war is over I will invite you on a trip round the world. Now that I have arrived at one end of the world, I would like to know what the other four corners look like.

South Africa is a wonderful country. If I were not so madly homesick for Greece, I would find it even more beautiful. The Cape of Good Hope is a tiny insignificant rock in the sea; much more imposing is Cape Point, next to it.

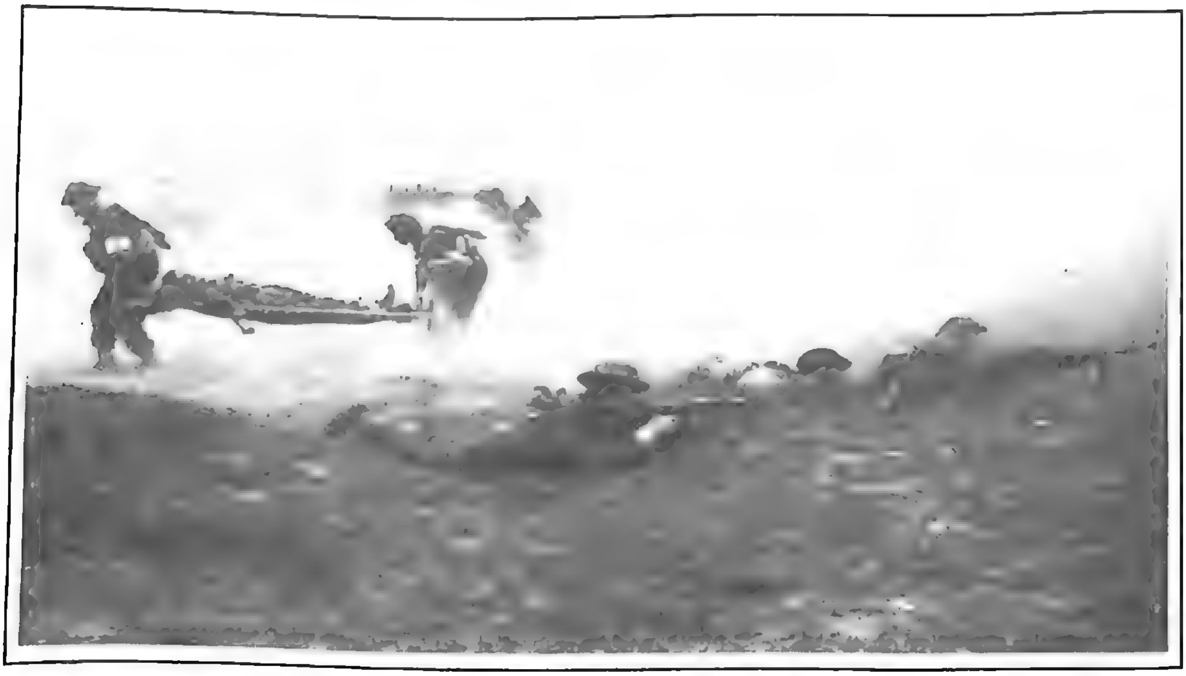
Until recently, we lived in a wonderful house, which belonged to the government. One evening I sat in Eugénie's[8] room on her bed, she had had a slight operation in the morning and had to keep very still. Katherine[9] was at the cinema, and Nursey had the evening out.

I suddenly heard someone shouting, "Fire." I opened the door and called to the servant not to shout. But he insisted that there was a big fire in the kitchen. With this I rushed to the nursery. Maria, a very nice Greek girl, who was nursery maid at home, and who now looks after me and the children, took Sophie in her arms. I took Tino, and ran to my room and fetched my jewels. As I was about to come down the stairs, every light went out and there was dreadful smoke....

I took the children to safety in a nearby house and then ran back to try and save a few things. Flames were already coming out of the roof, but fortunately at the other end of the house. Yanni (Palo's young Greek valet, you remember him surely) and



King George II in the front lines with the Greek Army against the Italians in Albania.



Greeks fighting in Albania, against the Italian invasion.

I ran upstairs, spread out a woollen blanket from the bed, and threw into it whatever we could find. The smoke was getting steadily worse, and in the meantime I could hear Katherine's voice in the garden, calling my name in despair. She had returned from the cinema and feared that I would be burned. Mine and the children's things have all been saved. In the meantime, thousands of people streamed into the house and saved what they could and stole what they found. Many pieces of furniture were ruined; over zealous helpers threw them out of the window shattered them on the ground. The whole thing was frightful. Until mid-December we shall be living in the house of the Prime Minister.

I filmed everything, including the mad confusion after the fire, the next day when all our things were lying on the filthy ground. It was really quite funny. I do not understand how we ever found anything again. Eugénie's husband, Dominic, lost all of his suits, the room where we had been sitting was completely burned. Fortunately, Eugénie is none the worse for it. Poor Palo kept cabling me in despair as everything must have looked much worse from a distance....

The parting with Palo was absolutely frightful, as you may well imagine. I was determined to go with him but both Palo and George insisted that I had to remain with the children, especially as they are still so small and could not naturally go with us. It is cruel to think that finally we had to part after all we had gone through together. Who knows when we shall see each other again. They were four weeks on the way, and for four weeks I had no idea whether they were alive or not, until I got the cable.

I discovered in the meantime that I was expecting another baby and wired Palo. This was the biggest bomb that ever hit Palo on the head, and me too, and found a very good doctor. Naturally, I will miss Warnerekross very much. Your third grandchild is expected on the 10th of May. I had promised myself that I would not have a child outside Greece, but nature is stronger and Palo and I are very pleased, especially as he would like three sons and two daughters.

Sophie comes with me almost every day shopping in town. At three, she is so grown up and I can really rely on her. Tino started walking two weeks ago and is very proud.. He is an indescribably lovely little boy, and has brother's head. Sophie has quite blue eyes, and Tino's are already changing. Last evening I heard them squeak in the nursery, and as they should have been asleep long ago, I went in and found Sophie washing Tino's face with a wet face cloth which he accepted quite calmly. Although she definitely knows what she wants, she is a very dreamy child...Tino is always friendly and enterprising. He is never still for a moment, and loves to roll in the mud. A real boy. Sophie hates dirtying herself. I have felt miserable for two months. Thank God, I am over it now, and am feeling quite better.

When Palo was here, we all drove through the part of South Africa which is kept completely wild; no tree bush or animal may be destroyed. We saw masses of lions

quite near the road and sometimes we had to stop the car and wait until two sleeping lions awoke and left the road. Naturally one is not allowed to leave the car, as it is too dangerous, but as we are official personalities, picnics were arranged for us in the forest in which I took part trembling with fear, but with a brave face. The giraffes look very funny in the open spaces, as they are very difficult to spot, as they are very good at camouflaging themselves. The long neck looks like the branch of a tree, and the legs like tree trunks. They look so funny when they run.

Life there in the wilderness is the most beautiful thing you can imagine, and one can forget there for a time, that we have lost all we loved, and that there is a war on. When my baby is born, I will go back to the wilderness as soon as possible, in trousers, knee boots and with a big knife, and snake serum. This last is very important, as the country is full of cobras and other poisonous snakes. Fortunately I have not seen any yet.

I bought a camera here, and make many films, all in colour. When we see each other again, I'll show them to you. Palo has also bought himself a camera and I hope he will also take many films.

The feeling of not having a home is quite dreadful, especially when you have children and when you have been as happy as we have been.

Everything seems so much harder to me, now that Palo and I have to part, but I am not the only one....The one good thing about this war is that it teaches us not to depend too much on material things, as we can lose them all from one day to another. But we are all convinced that the outcome will be good for us, but it will take a very long time.

However things turn out, we must all find the courage to start again from the beginning. We must all find our old friends again, regardless what side they were on, because our own personal friends never change, and they are the only bridges we have, with which to bridge over hate and bitterness, and bring countries once again nearer to each other.

Egypt....we were there during the greatest heat....The heat during our journey through the Red Sea was hair raising, it cannot be described.

We were on a glorious boat, and when we crossed the Equator, Uncle Jacob appeared as Father Neptune, and we were all officially baptised by him.

The climate here is very good. We are more or less on the same longitude as Greece, but naturally on the other side. The vegetation is very similar, only the colours are so much more beautiful at home.

I will never be able to live anywhere else than Greece and Palo is the same. I do not believe anyone else is as passionately fond of Greece as we are.

Pray God we all meet again in happiness and health.

I constantly wear the ring the brothers gave me, and never take it off. I dream sometimes of Hubertihaus and see myself catching fish.

I hope the brothers remember that they are the god-parents of all my children. With a tender hug from your devotedly loving you

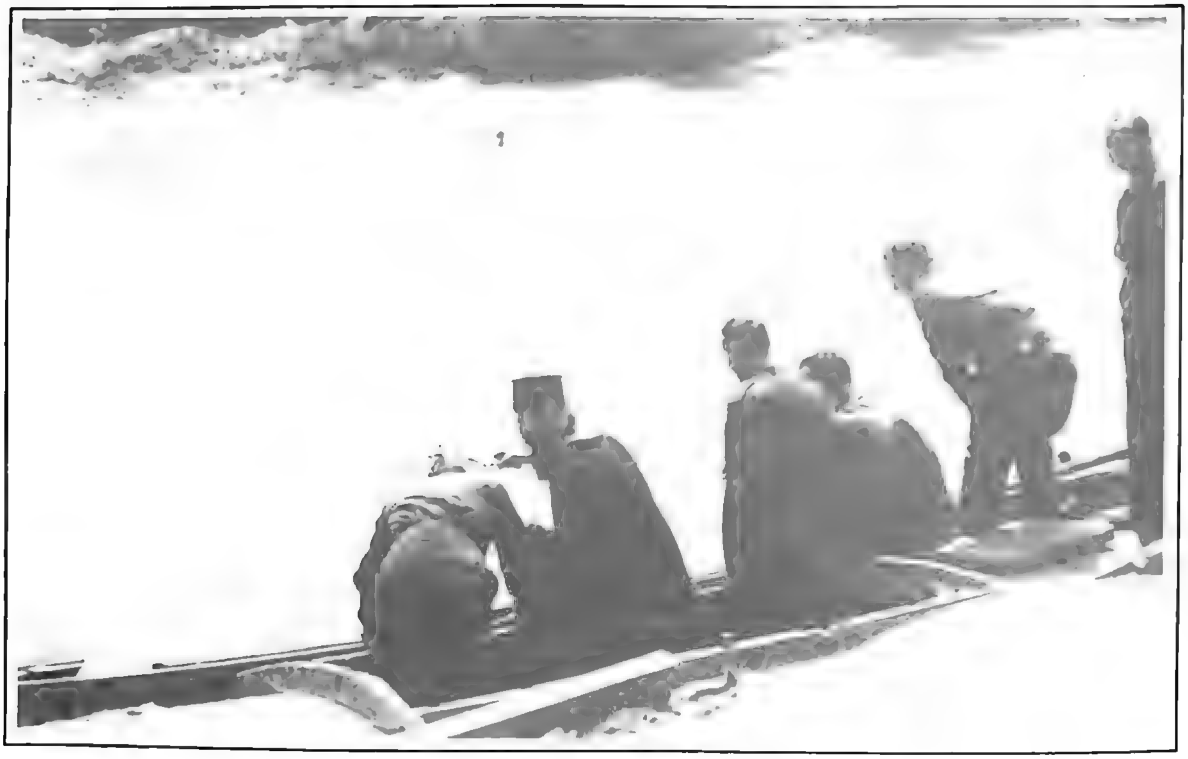
Baby
Frederike Luise."

In Greece the situation deteriorated daily. The people could not bear the thought of having Bulgarians and Italians as their victors. The Germans were wary, as they had seen the fighting courage of the Greeks during their advance on the country. They feared an uprising by the Underground, and treated the population harshly. After all stiff Greek resistance had delayed the German Army, and had thus led to the postponement of the invasion of Russia.[10] Greek officers, soldiers and civilians were arrested and sent to Haidari Prison. Those interned were treated cruelly. A couple I knew were arrested and taken there. The wife was severely beaten, and her husband interrogated in the adjoining room. He could clearly hear the screams of his wife. Screams that the Germans felt would induce the unfortunate husband to betray the names of his colleagues in the Resistance.

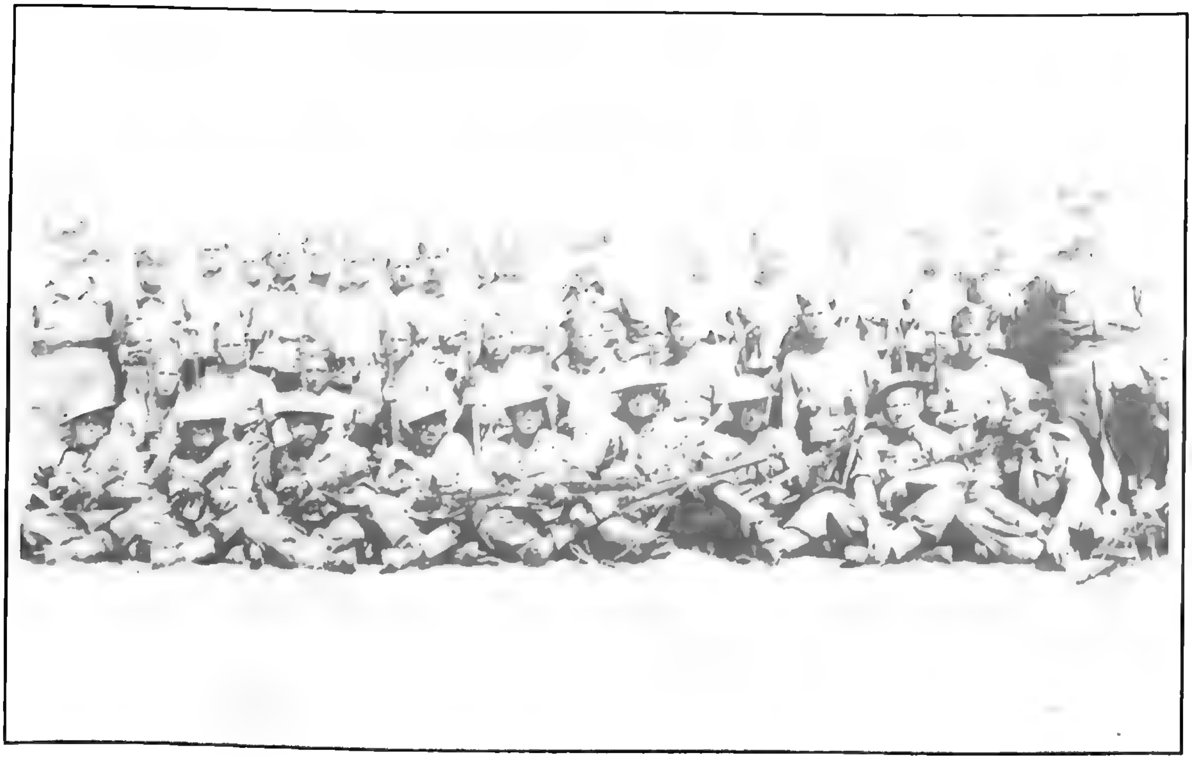
At this time the occupiers released the Communists, previously imprisoned by Metaxas, in the high security gaol at Akronaphalia, in the hope that they would spread dissent and so put Greek against Greek. They also felt that Communist discontent would help German penetration of the dissident Underground Movement.

Antonopoulos in his book **"1941-45"** and corroborated by Kokkinos in **"Years of Crisis, 1942-45".** Quotes a memo from the Secret police of the German Army to the Office of the Governor of General Security in Eastern Athens dated 2nd July, 1941, which recounts of how at noon on 26th June, two members of the German military secret police, accompanied by a Bulgarian interpreter, came to Akronafphalia prison and demanded the release of named Communists, amongst whom was A. Tzimas.

Tzimas was one of the hard-line Communist leaders, and member of the KKE (Communist Party of Greece). The Central Committee of the Communist Party published: **"Ten Years of Struggle: 1935-45"** stating their position as drawn up in the "Sixth Conference"....



Greek soldiers being blessed in the Jordan River, before joining the Greek army in El Alamein.



The blessed Greek Regiment in the Desert War.

"The Dictatorship of King George... has drawn four and a half years of freedom from the Greek People. His dictatorship was oriented towards British politics under the pretence of the protection of Greek liberty."

As we learned earlier the King, Crown Prince and members of the royal household, arrived in England in September 1941. They were met in Liverpool by the Duke of Gloucester; the group then travelled on to London. On the platform at Euston Station King George VI, resplendent in naval uniform, along with the Queen, the young princesses in the company of the King's cousin, Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, where there to greet the Greek King and his brother. Also present were Winston Churchill, his Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, the Minister of War and many other dignitaries.

King George of the Hellenes, dressed in a khaki army uniform, was the first to step off the train. Although slim, in keeping with his demeanour as a well trained army office, he had a face that betrayed the strain of the past few months. The arrival was reported by **"The Times"**.

"Cheers from hundreds of spectators conveyed to the guests the admiration felt throughout the country for their gallantry and indeed for that of the whole Greek nation."

Later, Churchill stated...."I was so touched when I saw this heroic King of that so small but heroic nation that my voice got deep with emotion and I felt tears in my eyes."

The King and his small court installed themselves in "Claridges Hotel", as guests of the British King.

Shortly afterwards people of the Greek community in London, went to pay their respects, among them was my father, Nicholas Maris. My father asked his King if there was anything he could do in those turbulent days. The King remembered him from the Macedonian War of 1912. He stopped and thought for a moment before replying.... "I see the Officers and sailors from the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine, have no place to go in London. A Club in which they can meet, have a meal in a homely atmosphere, would be a God-send for them." My father replied, thanking the King for the idea...."I will be happy to offer a house for the hospitality of our seamen."

The official opening of the "Sailor's Home", at 27, Devonshire Terrace, London W2, took place on July 17th.

The King accompanied by the Duchess of Kent opened "The Home". Prime Minister, Tsouderos, thanked the donor on behalf of the Government.

Prince Paul wrote to his wife at the end of 1941.

" London, December 9th, 1941

....You are never out of my thoughts. Your last letters were so pathetic I could not keep tears from running, while reading them...

I thought we would be in America for Christmas, but the trip was postponed. The actual trip across the ocean is nothing nowadays. It varies from eight to ten days....

What is terrible here is to see the city, it is just one huge mass, of devastation....

I went to see a place in the country where they make designs for guns, tanks, bombs, etc....Then I went to Woolwich Arsenal where all these things are made. I went to see a fighter squadron of Spitfires.... David Hamilton is stationed there, he sends his love.

I have only seen Philip once since we arrived here, when he spent a long week-end in London, and I took him about....

I also spent a week-end in Windsor with Georgie....

Last Monday I broadcast to Greece over the radio, it lasted six minutes, I wonder if it was heard.... Next Monday I am going to broadcast to all our navy people in Greece and the Middle East, this broadcast was responsible for many navy officers leaving Greece secretly and joining our forces in the Middle East...."[11]

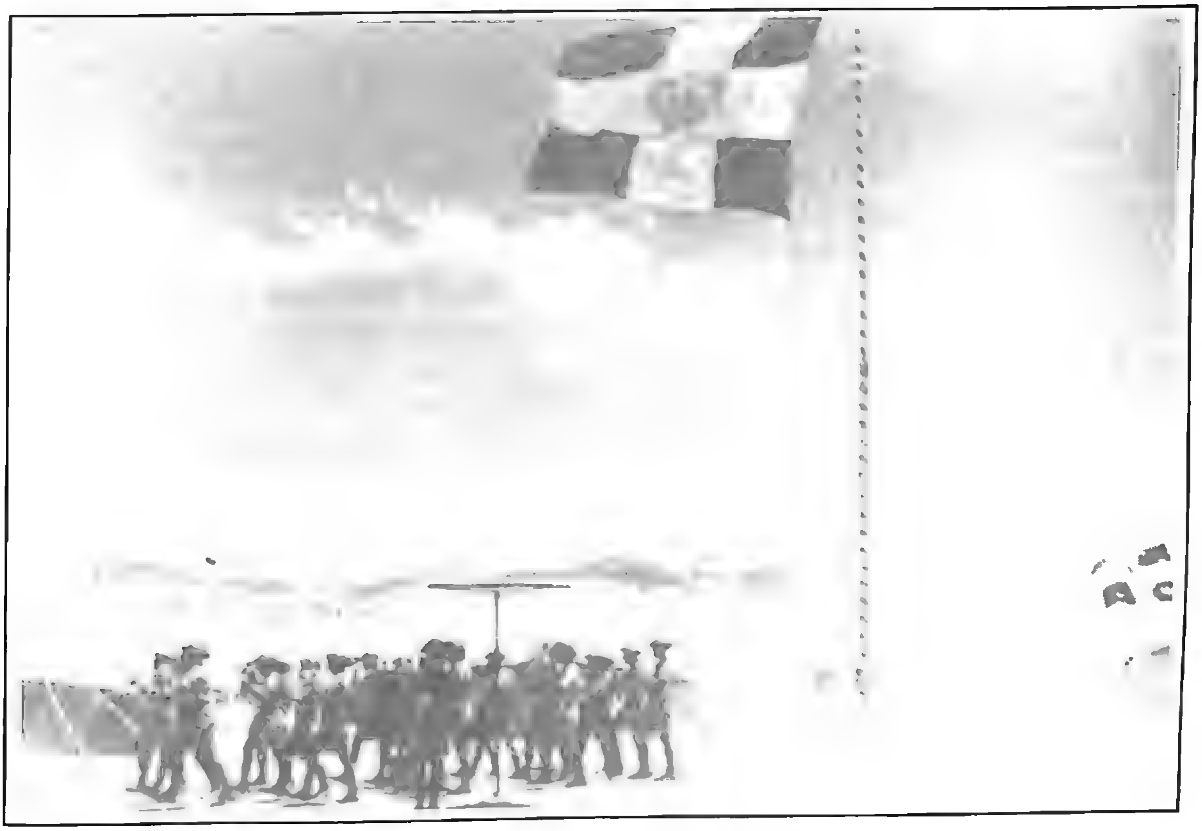
On December 22nd, 1941, just a few days before their first Christmas apart, Frederica wrote to her husband.

" Cape Province, Summerset-West.

My dearest sweetheart,

So it is Christmas in a few days, who would believe on such a day we would be separated, both living in a hotel you at one end of the world and I at the other. I am desperately trying not to think of our little house in Athens now occupied by other people....

It is funny to have Christmas here in the summer, but for this year it is better because one does not get the same Christmas feeling. For you it will be worse. I at least have got the children, and you have nobody. I hope somebody will invite you and give you a good time.



The Greek flag, raised after Victory.



Greeks and Allies.

December 24th, 1941

I was too exhausted yesterday evening to go on writing to you. I re-read you letter from Trinidad to me, cried and went to sleep. This morning Katherine and Mary have gone to town to give presents to soldiers in hospital. I feel so close, this morning, my angel that I prefer to stay in and write to you....

I must remember that after all I am a grown up and must give them the same Christmas we were used to ourselves. But Christmas without you is not Christmas at all.

The children are so awfully sweet right now. I have long intelligent conversations with Sophie. She tells me all about Papa in England, and she says Papa come back to Mama and then play with Sophie. Your photo plays a great role in their lives, especially for Tino who won't go to sleep without it. Whenever they see your picture they come to yell "Papa, Papa"....

Evening:

Well we had quite a nice time. We transformed my tiny sitting room into a toy land. We hung up paper garlands, put the toys on the floor and a toy Christmas tree in the middle. Sofie was most excited for a long time already, as I had told her about Christmas....

January 16th, 1942

This evening I heard that the Greek Prime Minister had been talking yesterday evening about the new pact between Yugoslavia and Greece. It sounds promising, but last night the whole Balkan pact was not much use to us....

My Palo, when shall I see you again? I have only three and a half more months to go. I look terrible, like expecting quintuplets but my face is still the same, so when you arrive you must look at my face and nothing else....

I would so like to have had my baby in Greece....

Yesterday night a rat jumped off my dressing table. I had such a fright I thought there was somebody in the room.

January 26th, 1942

My own sweetheart,

I just got your telegram that you are going to Egypt. I can hardly believe it. You

will be close to me and perhaps can come and see me. I want to cry already. I wonder if one can telephone Egypt from here. If I was not expecting I would fly there to see you. But surely you will be able to come and see me. I can hardly believe in such happiness any more....

Yesterday I went with Loula Nomikos and Katie Georgiadi to the canteen for Greek sailors we are running. The room was packed with our sailors. I told them how much I wanted to see them and I miss the Greeks and Greece, and that every single Greek face gives me the greatest pleasure. I wished them good luck, and if they saw you in England to give you my love. They were happy, and they sang all the Greek songs, and were so awfully sweet that I felt like kissing them all. Then I shook hands with every single one of them.

January 30th, 1942

My angel,

I wonder where you are now. It is difficult to look for you in my thoughts and not know where to find you.

The descriptions we read in the papers of what our poor people are going through in Greece are too awful for words. One feels so utterly helpless. I must think all the time of the poor mothers who see their children starving in front of their eyes. I want to cry for hours. I do want to do something for them so badly. Why must our people suffer so dreadfully when they have more than nobody else? I never thought I could love a country and its people as I love the Greeks. I wonder if it is because I love you so much. I absolutely feel as if I was born only to take my place in your country at your side.

January 31st, 1942

This minute I received your telegram, saying that you got my letter, and that you might come to see me. I am only sorry that then I shall look so awful. The baby will come on 10th May and I have decided to have it in the house as there is enough room. You do not know how happy I am as there is some hope of seeing you again. I wonder if this period of my life is supposed to be a special training in patience for me.

From Paul to Frederica.

April 5th 1942

Here I am in Leopoldville in the Belgian Congo all by myself. I just had an Easter dinner with the local Greek colony, about 40 people. It was very touching, they sang all the Greek songs. I kept thinking of you and had a lump in my throat. It is



King George II and his Army.



King George II during the war with Italy at the El Alamein frontier, 1940.

the first time I have spent Easter like that, no church no you. I keep on thinking of Easter last year and how tragic it was with the Germans at the gate....I have to go to Cairo first to talk over the future plans with Georgie. I should have left England with him but the Foreign Office did not want us to travel together. I took a flying boat to Ireland....We left at night and arrived in Lisbon the next morning. I spent the day in our legation. In the evening we left for British Gambia....

From there we went to Lagos. I hope to arrive in Cairo soon."

At this time my father was suffering from a heart condition in distant London, and my brother Michael, aboard "The Panthir", was somewhere in North Africa. There was no news from them, which was very worrying. There we were in Greece, worried and anxious. My mother decided it was time to act. We had to get out. Escaping, in those days was a very dangerous proposition. Yet she wanted to take a chance as worries about her family abroad and the daily sight of the Nazis was having a dreadful effect on her. Of course if we were caught there was a big chance that we would be killed. This had happened to many people we knew. However, my mother believed anything was better than living in a Greece occupied by the Germans. True to the motto on the flag....**"Freedom or Death"**, we chose freedom.

On one October morning in 1942, she decided that the time had come. There was only one way to do this...To take a boat to the Turkish coast and from there make our way to Egypt. We knew that the Turks were treating Greek refugees badly, but that was a chance we had to take. So Mother gathered us all together, my youngest brother Adrian, Michael's fiancée, Lina and myself, and she told us of her plan. There was no alternative but to agree. We climbed aboard a bus going to Kalamos on Euboea Bay, as it was from there we would board the boat for Turkey. On the bus we recognised general Papagos's son and two former ambassadors, Argypoulos and Sourlas. It was clear that we were not the only ones who intended to escape from Greece. The thought began to dawn that in a few short days we would be either free or dead! Two hours later we alighted from the bus in Kalamos. Two guides were waiting for us. These two men told us to hide in some bushes until nightfall, when a boat would take us around the bay to the opposite shore.

We had to hide from German patrols and contend with snakes until two in the morning. It was at that hour that our guides reappeared to lead us to two waiting boats. Silently we embarked, afraid to make a sound we alerted the Germans..The boatman placed his oars in the water, and as quietly as possible started to pull away from the shore.

A sliver of a moon reflectd its white light on the calm waters of Euboea Bay. In my head reverberated the strains of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata", a respite that strengthened me for what the uncertain future had in store.

The quiet night was disturbed by the sound of a distant engine. It was a patrol boat, cruising the bay, looking for people such as ourselves who had broken the curfew. My mother threw her body over mine to protect me, from what she felt sure would be a hail of bullets. One of the old ambassadors was muttering under his breath.."Only the Holy Virgin can help us now!", and this she did. The boat continued its approach, but turned back towards the shore before catching sight of our little party crouched in the rowing boat. It took us two hours to cross that bay. There waiting for us, as we made our landfall, were two other guides. Their job was to take us over the mountains to Tsesme, in Turkey.

One of the guides cautioned our party that if questioned by curious villagers we were to reply we were looking to buy olive oil. This is not as ridiculous as it sounds as everyone knew that the people in Athens were starving; it was not unusual to see forage parties scouring the countryside in an attempt to augment their scant supplies.

The march continued slogging over mountains day and night. We were fortunate to find three donkeys, so the older members of our group could take turns on their backs, and thus be spared a little from some of the hardship of the trip. High up in those mountains we chanced upon a group of Jews, running like us from the Germans. One of them, a man by the name of Cohen told us, how Princess Alice, mother of Prince Philip had hidden them in her house to protect them from Gestapo arrest, who would most certainly have sent them to a likely death in the camps of Auschwitz or Bergen- Belsen. On the third night of our escape, we were exhausted, thirsty and hungry. Our guides told us that the Germans had just occupied a village that lay nearby. At two that morning we found a small mountain chapel, the kind that shepherds build as a tribute to the Virgin Mary.

We entered the chapel and prayed, quite certain that the dangers surrounding us were a preparation for a meeting with God!

At three a.m., we continued our journey, the guides telling us that shortly we would arrive in a village. So we reached Regousi. As we sheltered in a side street, three men rushed out of a doorway and surrounded us. One of them wore baggy black breeches, his naked chest was crisscrossed with a cartridge belt. He brandished a gun which he pointed at us. His companion, wore an Italian hat complete with feathers, German Army trousers and a Greek Officer's jacket. He, too was armed. The third man dressed in Greek Army trousers an ordinary civilian jacket and having a Turkish fez perched on his head.

The village was quiet and deserted. The nearby house from which this threatening band had sprung bore a sign saying **"ELAS"**. Papagos and I looked at each other, puzzled as to who this crew were. So, in my innocence I asked them, wondering if they were lunatics who had escaped from an asylum, at the same time glancing around me, in the vain hope of finding an escape route. Perhaps, somebody would



King George II visiting the Greek Army Training Camp in Palestine, early 1942.



The Greek Army in the Desert War in El Alamein.

come to our aid, but nothing stirred. The strange creature wearing the baggy breeches proclaimed they were the "heroic ELAS", wondering if I dared ask a second question, guards emerged from the house and led us to the village square, where we were told to sit, as other members of the gang emerged as if from nowhere. The whole bunch were dressed in similar carnival style. Their leader had a long beard and shaggy, unwashed hair. He spoke to us abruptly:

"I want to give you bastards a lesson. You all want to go to England, the worst enemy of democracy, just to eat marmalade ! But we don't need people like you..! We don't need you, so we kill you!"

Another of the brigands stood next to me. I turned on him angrily:

"Does this man think we are animals? Is this some kind of bad joke?"

The young man cautioned me to remain silent, because if the leader heard our conversation, he would do worse than kill me, a lot worse!

"Who are you?" I whispered.

"We are the Communist Party of Greece, protected by the Soviet Union", was his hurried reply.

I grew very frightened knowing full well what horrors the Bolsheviks had perpetrated on the Russian people. We were in big trouble.

Argyropoulos, a diplomat who was then in his 60s, turned all the skills he possessed on these Communist guerrillas.

"I am terribly sorry but none of us here is a bastard, as you so wrongly describe us. We are all Greek patriots who have served in the war of freedom for Greece. We are crossing these mountains so we can escape to Turkey and then beyond in order to join the Greek Free Forces and serve the country once again. If you are honourable Greeks leave us to do our duty. If you are not...then...kill us. Let history judge your behaviour and ours!"

Other members of the gang jostled one another to hear his brave words, and still more of this bizarre army slunk into the village square. The leader considered for a moment before speaking:

"We will spare your lives! But you are not going to join the enemies of the people in England. You must leave this island within 24 hours and return to your homes in Athens!"

So began the tedious and unhappy return journey. If we were to believe the threats of the Communists we knew we had to cover in one day a distance which had taken us three. Quickly, but this time having to hide from not only the Germans but the Communists as well, we retraced our steps. It took us forty eight hours to reach the bridge at Chalkis.

The question was, how were we going to cross the bridge. A friend in Chalkis, told us that if we were to bribe the S.S guards, they would then allow us to cross over to the mainland. The password to alert them to the fact we were aware of their enterprise, and thus willing to pay to cross the bridge, was **"nero"**. I will never forget how my mother, hesitantly approached the soldier, nervously proffering a golden sovereign and shouting the word **"nero"**, so loudly we thought the game was up. Thank God the soldier pocketed the money and let us pass. After crossing we hitched a lift on a truck carrying chickens to market. I perched on a cage of cockrels, and it was on this precarious seat I made my return to Athens.

On reaching the city we wondered if the Germans had heard of our unsuccessful escape attempt, or would the Communists who now knew our identities come looking for us in our homes. It was frightening to realise that we now had two enemies, the German Army of occupation on one hand and the Communists on the other! The time had come to join the Underground Resistance. Several of these groups had sprung up since the invasion; the purpose was to rid Greece of the Nazis, but unfortunately the right wing was antagonistic to the cadres of the left, which put Greek against Greek, and as so often is the case in such situations the victims were the innocent.

On September 9th, 1941, Major Napoleon Zervas, formed the Greek National Democratic Front (EDES), the function of which was to harass the Germans. General Nicholas Plastiras, became the leader and many flocked to join the Cause, including my friends Sotiris Matantos (now living in London) and Myridakis, along with a host of others. Before joining the fighters in the mountains all members had to promise allegiance to "EDES", in an oath swearing...."to God, to honour and my conscience that I will protect EDES with all my might and I will keep the secrets of the organisation until our struggle is over." These brave members of the Underground were determined to fight until hostilities ceased.

"EDES" drew its followers from members of the Armed Forces, soldiers who preferred to remain in Greece rather than go abroad. The British seconded a liaison officer to the organisation, code named **"ELY"**. It was his job to co-ordinate activities in the country and keep the military in Egypt informed of what was going on. In June of that year another Resistance party sprung into being. Previously, Psaros headed **"5/42"**, but at that juncture he elected to join Tsigantes to form **"MIDAS 614"**. Like **"EDES"**, the activities of **"MIDAS 614"** were guided by the Free Forces in the Middle East, from their HQ in Cairo. Later a pro-royalist youth movement came into



King George II with Sophocles Venizelos with the Royal Navy, Egypt, 1943.



King George II with British officers during the War.

being, known as **"X"; "The UN-KNOWN"**. Some young regular army officers, who were friends asked me to join. My mother was against my involvement, feeling that resistance fighting was the work of men and not genteel young ladies. One of my jobs was to rush about the city, and whenever I saw a swastika or poster of the Communist Party (KKE), place a photo of King George II in its place. The boys gave this dangerous work to the girls because they felt they had more warlike tasks to perform. Our work was certainly not without risk, because if we were caught by the Germans we would have been arrested and faced the prospect of a firing squad. At least the Germans would have given us a trial, but the Communists were much crueller and would have killed us on the spot.

On June 11th, 1942, King George accompanied by Prime Minister Tsouderos, paid a State visit to see Roosevelt in the United States. The object of the visit was to request arms to continue the fight. **"The Washington Post"**, reports of the meeting between the Greek King and the American President:

"....King George II, who barely missed being captured by Nazi parachutists in Crete a year ago, arrived in Washington...and got something new in the way of an official welcome. President Roosevelt greeted the exiled monarch on the South Lawn of the White House under a maple tree...."I am awfully glad to see you. How are you?" He said as he grasped King George's hand."

"All the honours of the head of a sovereign state awaited King George at the White House. As he stepped from his limousine, reporters saw a lean-jawed man of medium height wearing the khaki uniform of a Greek Field Marshal. His breast was covered with decorations acquired in five years of war. He was received with great honours by the President and even spent the night in the White House after the official dinner. On the streets as they drove to the Capitol, Greek crowds had gathered to welcome their King with cries of joy (Zito o Vassilias mas) "Long live our King."

"The Greek army, its air force and more than half of its original navy are fighting today in many theatres of the war. My only mission here is to arrange for direct shipments of equipment by America to the Greek forces under the lend-lease system....Two weeks ago I was in Tobruk and saw some of our troops fighting alongside the British forces opposing Field-Marshal Rommel...."

King George's mission was successful. Congress approved the request at once. Arms shipments followed soon after.

Prince Paul and Princess Frederica announced their good news from Cape Town. On the 11th of May 1942, the Princess gave birth to a baby daughter. Her name, Irene, meaning peace. The couple had become friendly with the South African Prime-Minister, Jan Smuts, who was godfather to young Irene.

The Princess, then only twenty five years old, had a great admiration for Smuts. She loved listening to his stories of the Boer War regarding him as a great philhellene. Frederica had an enquiring mind and liked things to be explained in an intelligent way. She found a kindred spirit in the shape of the Prime Minister. In 1926 Smuts had published a treatise entitled..**"Holism and Evolution."** "Holism" is a Greek word meaning the "whole" (Olismos). This theory states that the existence of "wholes" is a fundamental feature of the World, and regards natural objects, both animate and inanimate as wholes and not merely collections of atoms and elements.

General Smuts became increasingly absorbed with this idea; in his book he develops the theory that matter and mind do not consist of fixed unalterable constituents. There is another factor which science does not recognize, that of the "whole" which has an influence and effect of its own.

Frederica was fascinated by this concept and began to research it further, and loved discussing the matter with the General. Often they could be seen walking in the grounds of "Groote Schuur" engrossed in conversation. They also started writing letters to each other, exchanging questions and answers on philosophy which tried to explain the acts of diverse politicians within a philosophical context.

The young Princess had a great respect for Smuts, even quoting his opinions in her letters to Churchill. Theirs was a lasting friendship, and long afterwards she would often bring him into our conversations.

Clearly, this man played a large part in the spiritual development of the future Queen of Greece. He tried to answer her questions on why there were so many deaths and disasters during the war, and was the sacrifice really worth while. There is a stone engraving in Mycenae that depicts a snake being offered as a prize for the winner of a war. The victorious Queen looks at the snake, her eyes glowing with triumph, but also a little puzzled, was it worth it? Like the Mycenean Queen, Smuts and his young pupil examined the same issue. They concluded that war was not about material things, but a battle of ideas. Were these ideas economic? Hitler built Germany into a strong economic power; one of the strongest in Europe. They concluded, therefore, that the war was not economic but spiritual. Perhaps, Hitler had believed that the German race was intellectually superior to others, and felt that he could help the world. Did he hope to contribute in the same way as Alexander the Great, or was he simply consumed by an unquenchable quest for power (Archomania) quite oblivious to the well-being of others?

Many people were puzzled by this strange relationship, and someone once asked Frederica if Smuts had been in love with her. She replied very properly saying that he had been intellectually in love with her, as so strong was their friendship. A love as set out by the constraints of Plato, and best described as Platonic. In the first years of King Paul's reign, The General was to serve as an advisor and mentor.

Meanwhile terrible turmoil existed back in occupied Greece. The Resistance movements of "**EDES**" under the leadership of Napoleon Zervas, "**5/42**" and "**MIDAS 614**" led by Psarros and Tsigantes were fighting like lions in the mountains. The big tragedy was the different Communist Organisations of "**ELAS**", "**EAM**" and "**RKE**" fought the Nationalist organisations more aggressively than the Germans. They attempted to barter parts of Greece to the Soviets. The following is the Communist Party Declaration of July 12th, 1943:

"The Communist Party of Greece and the Communist Party of Bulgaria, after the disbanding of the Communist International, mindful of the political line of the Communist International and its last orders, wish to collaborate with their aim of quickly installing in the Balkans the USSR and to finally resolve the difference between the Balkan peoples. We the following representatives sign this covenant:

Comrade Yannis Ioannides, KKE (Communist Party of Greece)
Comrade Dushan Daskalov (Communist Party of Bulgaria)

(1) The aim of both parties is to establish the USSR in the Balkans to include Greece, Macedonia and Serbia.

(2) The Communist Party of Greece and the Communist Party of Bulgaria are free to regulate their strategic activity to resolve their purpose in the best way.

(3) For the security of the Bulgarian frontier, both parties will collaborate so that the border between Bulgaria and Serbia will commence at the Danube (river) up to Bulgaria and Fiume on the Adriatic.

(4) Bulgaria will have an outlet to the Aegean Sea.

(5) Istanbul and the Straits will be independent as an autonomous democracy under the control of USSR.

(6) Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria and Serbia, namely the area between the River Nestos and the Rhodope Mountains, Rylya, Osnikof, Sar (Skardos) from the Northern Albanian Alps from the west of Mount Olympus and the Aegean Sea from the South with the island of Thasos, will be an independant and autonomous Soviet democracy. Official languages will be Greek and Bulgarian.

This covenant was formulated in the Greek and Bulgarian languages in Petritsi, 12th July 1943.

For the Greek Communist Party Signed: Yannis Ioannides.
For the Bulgarian Communist Party: Signed: Dushan Daskalov."

This document shows how the Communist Parties of Greece were betraying their country to the advantage not only of the Soviet Union, but also the Bulgarians, who if nothing else were working for the territorial advantage of their nation.

Field Marshal Alexander Papagos did not leave with the King, but stayed in



H.M. King George II of the Hellenes.

Greece to organise internal resistance. Unfortunately he was arrested in July 1943 and sent to concentration camps, first in Koenichstens in Saxony; he was later transferred to Oranienberg and finally to Dachau, where he remained until the camp was liberated at the end of the war. Whilst a German prisoner the Field Marshal shared a cell with Stalin's son, Vassili. One day the guards took Stalin's son away and all felt sure he was about to be executed. Instead, however, the German officers made him pose for a photograph, which looked as if he were collaborating with his German captors. Vassili was sure the photo would circulate in the Soviet Union, and would no doubt come to the attention of his father. This scared him very much as he was sure Stalin would condemn him to death in "absentia".

The Germans were not the only ones to hold Greeks prisoners. The Italians did exactly the same thing. The Greeks held by the Italians made it their aim to escape. The Organisation formed with this objective in mind was known as " Freedom or Death". Evangelos Averoff was a leader of this escape committee. Bravely he elected to remain in prison to organise these escape attempts. After the War he became prominent in Government rising to the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence. Also among the Italian prisoners were Mr. and Mrs. Zanas, distinguished grandparents of Antonis Samaras, now a prominent politian. An excellent role was played also by the Greek chief of the police A. Evert. He was saving from the German squads all Greeks, Jews and Allies.

Among the Resistance leaders in Crete was Constantine Mitsotakis, recent Prime Minister and leader of the New Democracy Party in Greece. He, too, was captured and imprisoned by the Germans. A former British officer relates that towards the end of the war, when the Germans were on the defensive and looked certain to lose, they chose to make reprisals against their Greek prisoners. They decided to kill all prominent Greeks in a hope this threat would buy them a little time. When the British, themselves in the Cretan mountains, heard this, they sent a message to the German Governor threatening to kill him in return if he should carry out his threat. The Governor taking the British warning seriously knowing that the war would soon be over, backed off, and so Constantine Mitsotakis and many others came out of the war alive.

Queen Frederica remembers one day in 1943, whilst on one of her visits to her husband in Cairo, wandering into his office in the Greek Embassy to find him deep in thought:

"I want to go up to the mountains in Greece," he said.

"and take our best officers with me, to organise the Resistance so the Allies will have a force they can rely on."

He swiftly phoned the British Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, General Wilson,

and explained his plan. Wilson told him it was a brave idea, but he could not take the responsibility of allowing the Crown Prince to embark on such a course of action.

Paul was quick to retort that:

"If I should get killed, there will be a couple of lines in the obituary columns of the newspapers, and the next day my death would be forgotten. However, I have also told General Theron about this.... You are sowing dragon's teeth by helping the Communists. If I take to the mountains with some reliable officers, I would provide a rallying point for the Greeks."

General Theron cabled General Smuts, telling him of the Crown Prince's intention. Smuts then met with Roosevelt, Churchill and Eden soon afterwards in Cairo. Smuts told the others of Paul's plan at the meeting, and they all approved, as did King George and General Zervas of a "EDES".

Frederica tells of her husband's delight at this outcome and he quickly began to make plans for his departure. Cables were exchanged between officials and everything appeared to be settled. However, Prince Paul never received the green light, and the official permission that the Crown Prince so eagerly awaited never arrived. The Allies delayed their agreement without explanation.

The text of Prince Paul's telegram, relaying the Crown Prince's intention to Smuts has never previously been made known. I will, therefore quote it in full:

"TO: DECHIEF IMMEDIATE
9th September, 1943

FROM: UNIDEF

OFFICERS ONLY. Most Secret: For Field Marshal from Theron.

1. Following from Crown Prince.

At this vital stage of the war I feel two most important steps should immediately be taken. Principally in the interest of the cause of the United Nations and equally so for the welfare of Greece which I believe you agree with me is the keystone of ordered stability in South Eastern Europe.

A. Firstly in view of the resolute Greek resistance to fascist aggression synchronised with South African action in Abysinnia as the advance guard in the elimination of one of the Axis powers, I urge that it is fitting that some Greek troops should participate in the occupation of Rome, as it will undoubtedly have far reaching repercussions, not only in Greece but also in the Balkans as a whole. I have put this to my brother who acquiesces in the importance of such endeavour.



British and Greek fighting together – Montgomery and Tsakalotis.

He told me Winston Churchill was also eager this should be done.

C.C. General Wilson is of the same opinion. He is still ill and proceeds in a few days to Lebanon to recuperate and is disinclined for obvious reasons to put this to the British and American Governments. The South African nurse has been a great help which we appreciate.

B. Secondly, with the collapse of Italy and in view of certain resultant confusion in the Balkans and Greece, I feel very strongly that the moment is now most opportune for a bold stroke in Greece against the German occupation and also their prestige which will not only effectively rally the whole country to the Allied Nations' cause but will undoubtedly be in the best interests of Greece and also make for stability in the Balkans generally. I have accordingly urged General Wilson to allow me to return to Greece at once to rally the country as the King's natural representative. I feel confident of immediate success. Wilson. is sympathetic but finds it rather premature as conditions are far from safe as yet but would like to discuss the matter with you when you get here. I urge that now is the time to act with the utmost vigour and am certain such a bold course will succeed and I shall endeavour to the utmost to unify all Greek National interests under the leadership of the King for whose return I shall thus prepare the way. This proposal of mine I have not, repeat not, discussed with my brother for obvious reasons which I know you will appreciate. I appeal to you to back me,and Frederica with her high courage says confidently go in and win. I think that idea would appeal to Winston Churchill. I am afraid of reaction of the Foreign Office. Would like matter to be presented to my brother only when everything is organised and then strongly supported by you and the British Government. We must act with speed.

2. I should like to take reliable officers with me, on whom I can depend and Theron is ready to accompany and support me. He is a persona grata with the British and has no axe to grind anywhere and will be very useful as a go-between with them and, proceeding as he will with the Authority and under the cloak of the prestige as your representative with me, will add an added appeal to our people. Frederica and I ask you to let him go with me.

3. The arrangement in Greek affairs now is that on the return of the King in about 2 weeks time the three service ministers will be replaced by one Defence Ministry vested in the Prime Minister and thus responsible to the King, the former will be advised by suitable Greek staff officers representing the 3 services, which later will in turn operate for the time being at any rate as part of the British Services similar to your UDF (United Defence Force). We both send our love to you and Mrs Smuts. This message from Crown Prince ends." Theron continues:

4. I had talked with General Wilson yesterday and he told me that guerrilla leaders were being returned to Greece under Foreign Office instructions

notwithstanding the demand for definite promise that the King would not return until a plebiscite had been taken. This fact, weighed in conjunction with Mr. Churchill's Quebec broadcast reference in support of the Kings of Greece and Yugoslavia appears to indicate British Government's decision to underwrite the Greek Royal family which has unflinchingly risked all resolutely in opposing Nazi aggression.

5. I think I can help the Crown Prince if you agree to his request. The gallantry of Greece stirs me intensely and the adventure appeals deeply to my Theronides blood from ancient Greece and Sicily. My part in the mission would probably take two to three months.

6. My LL 110. posted yesterday gives a full report of my talk with Wilson. LL 109 Giving full report of talks with Eisenhower was posted Tuesday. Message Ends."

Why didn't the Allies give their consent to allow Prince Paul to fight in the mountains with the Resistance? Perhaps, the Soviets prevented it, or perhaps they were worried that in the event of King George's death there would be no available successor to the Greek throne, except for young Prince Constantine then aged only three. In the meantime the situation deteriorated in Greece. Many years later in conversations with Queen Frederica, she gave a full account of these events.

"One day without any explanation the King named my husband Regent. I was really surprised by this action. The situation then was dangerous because there was a great deal of misunderstanding between the politicians and only Winston Churchill could understand the real situation. Many politicians wanted to exile the King, the man who ... years ago was a world hero. When the hosanna is over a crucifixion is expected, so they wanted to name another unknown person Regent. The King then decided to name Prince Paul as Regent."

"This is perhaps the reason why Allied Headquarters would not give Prince Paul permission to form an army in the Greek mountains", Frederica continued.

"In the meantime the Government of George Papandreou was to go to Italy and my husband was to join him and they were to return together to Greece. Leeper, the British Ambassador to Greece, asked my husband to delay his departure so my husband decided to go to England and discuss the matter with his brother, but the Allies refused his permission to go. So he came up with a plan to enter Greece with the Greek liberation army. He called two officers of the Royal Greek Navy, Captain Toumbas (a war hero) and Demetracopoulos, and asked them if he could go to Greece aboard their warships. Both of them agreed. But even though everything was ready, unfortunately the invasion of Greece had to be postponed and so the plan to be aboard the warships was cancelled."

Queen Frederica said this was one of the inside stories of the war, and that she



King George II inspects the Greek Naval Guard of Honour at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, on the anniversary of the entry of Greece into the War.



King George II, King Geoge VI and Mr. Churchill.

was unable to understand how after so many glorious victories and sacrifices they would be kept out of the country during its liberation, while others who took no part in the war were to be the ones who enjoyed the day.

"I was too young to understand the political intrigues, and morally I was revolted," she commented.

"It has taken me some years to understand. I was too sincere, too devoted to my duty, blind to the intrigues and very enthusiastic on behalf of my country. This was perhaps a big mistake."

An Orgy of Slaughter
The Devastation of Greece:

The Greek Nationalist Resistance groups of **"EDES"** and Psaro's " **5/42"** united with the Communists of **"ELAS"** only once during the entire war. On November 25th 1942 they joined forces under the auspices of " Operation Harling", to destroy the railway line at Gorgopotamos. This would disrupt the German supply line from the north and was in support of the advance of "The Eighth Army" in North Africa. The offensive began at the battle of E1 Alamein on the night of 23/24th October. The Greek attack was carried out with the assistance of British parachutists. Gorgopotamos and its surrounding area are of great strategic importance, a significance that dates back to ancient times. In 480 BC Leonidas of Sparta fought the Persians near this site, whilst Militiades battled with the Persians, again nearby.

"Where the Greeks led by the distinguished Athenians deprived the golden Medes of victory."

ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΠΡΟΜΑΧΟΥΝΤΩΝ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΙ ΜΑΡΑΘΡΩΝΙ ΧΡΥΣΟφΟΡΩΝ ΜΗΔΩΝ ΕΣΤΟΡΕΣΑΝ ΔΥΝΑΜΙΝ

Stalin in his "manie de grandeur" wanted Greece as a Soviet satellite, as it would give Bulgaria access to the Aegean and allow his ships to pass more freely through the Bosphorus and into the Black Sea. The Greek Communists were there to help him in his ambitions. It was their plan to use the Germans to aid them in their design. So began "Operation Devastate Greece".

It started in the picturesque village of Doxato lying between Thessaloniki and Kavalla. Here the villagers had refused to obey a Communist Directive, so "ELAS" killed a German soldier in order to provoke the enemy into retaliating. Helped by the Bulgarians the Germans punished the villagers by unleashing their full fury on the place. They sent tanks into Doxato, and the accompanying SS Officers herded all the villagers into the square, placed them in a line and shot every one of them.

Only a few old people were left alive. Old men in their eighties buried the bodies of their sons and grandsons. Having slaked their blood lust on the men, the Nazis turned and raped women and young girls. Today there is a memorial to this massacre.The event is marked each year by a "Memorial Service" attended by prominent representatives of the Government who honour the dead.

This awful destruction of the village, created such misery and dissatisfaction amongst the civilian population that the Communists quickly realised that this was a very effective way of spreading civil discontent, knowing it would help them in their ambition of seizing power in the country once the Germans had gone.

Operation "Devastate Greece" was a policy whereby the Communists took the lesson learned in Macedonia and imitated it all over Greece.

"It was before dawn on 13th December, 1943 when thundering tanks entered the town of Kalavryta, filling the inhabitants with terror. Many ran away to hide in the surrounding countryside. Others were not so lucky. The Nazi soldiers plundered all the buildings, and then rang the church bells. Everyone in the town gathered together in the school playground. Priests, doctors, lawyers teachers, civil servants, women and children stood together that winter morning. The women, girls and boys under sixteen were separated from the men and locked in the school itself. Those who remained outside were dazzled by the powerful searchlights used by their persecutors. Before the sun rose, all the men were dead, mown down by machine gun fire. After this dreadful deed, the town was burned to the ground. The school building was set on fire, and as the sun rose the flames reached far into the sky and the screams of the women and children pierced the dawn.

A young Austrian officer, seeing the inferno and moved by the suffering that surrounded him, took pity on the women and youngsters trapped in the burning school. He dashed quickly to the back door and released the surviving trapped victims. An SS Officer witnessing this compassionate deed, shot the young Austrian dead and then turned his gun on the fleeing women and children. Since that dreadful day the town's clock hs remained stationary at 2 am, as a frightening reminder of such senseless cruelty on that horrible Monday morning of December 13th 1943."[12]

One of the saddest ironies of Kalavryta was that the Communist forces of **"ELAS"** were camped in the surrounding mountains, and they did absolutely nothing to stop the slaughter. Not a shot was fired against the Germans, and no attempt was made to ambush the SS troops as they withdrew. Why? The town had strong pro-nationalist sentiments, and was fervently anti-Communist. Thus **"ELAS"** did not to interfere in the affair.

Spiros Melas member of the Academy of Athens tells of what happened next.



King George II with Mr. Roosevelt.



The Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth welcome King George II on arrival in London

"After leaving Kalavryta in flames, the Nazis pressed on to the Monastery of **"MEGA SPILEON"**."It was here in 1821, that the Archbishop of Patras, Germanos, had raised the flag of liberation, signalling the Greek uprising against the Turks.

"The monks had seen the flames at 3 am, and the Governor Lauger sent an officer with some soldiers to the monastery to take them to a spot called Kissoti. Three monks were ill with high temperatures, but the Germans forced them out of their beds to join the others. There were sixteen altogether, plus a little orphan child of ten years old who had been adopted by them and followed them. Kissoti, lies high on the edge of a cliff that overlooks Vouraikos. When the orphan boy saw the monks in the middle surrounded by Germans with machine guns. He rushed up to the Abbot and clutched his feet, sobbing: "Please don't kill the Father! Don't kill the father!" The Officer in charge told the boy to move. The boy kneeled and continued to grasp the Abbots feet, pleading for the man's life. The officer kicked the youth aside, and then shot him dead. His men then executed the 16 monks and threw the bodies into the ravine below."

On April 14th, 1944 the Germans found one of their compatriots murdered outside the villages of Kaloskopi and Koukoupitsa in Parnassis.The murder followed the stereotype killings by the Communists. The Commanding Officer ordered the extermination of the entire village. Women and children were not to be excluded form the slaughter. Often women were first raped and then killed. The soldiers used their bayonets to stab and then pierce the bodies of their victims. As the troops entered the villages the frightened cry: "The Blacks, the Blacks!" echoed in the air, in a reference to the mercenaries brought from North Africa by Rommel, who were renowned for their cruelty. Cruelty, however, which was frequently exceeded by their German paymasters.

Ten days earlier in Vlachoklissoura near the beautiful Byzantine city of Kastoria 200 hundred men were executed and a similar number in the nearby town of Amynthea.

The demonic Communist infiltration spread all over the country and then was exported overseas to the Greek Armed Forces based in North Africa. Many of the Communists along with several of those who collaborated with the German Army of occupation made their way to Egypt, and there joined the Army, Navy and Air Force. Their aim was to convince the Allies that they were the true heroes of the nation. Men who had stayed behind to fight the enemy from within. The Communists of course had another intention. By infiltrating the military they were preparing the way for the future when Greece would be given over to the glory of Stalin. Before this could happen, they had first to extinguish the Resistance Movements of **"EDES"**, and Psaros's **"5/42"**, as well as the youngsters of **"X"**. The latter were accused of being German collaborators. In the meantime the Communists were able to surround Psaros and his 300 strong resistance fighters. The leftist leader Aris Velouchiotis ordered his comrades to execute Psaros and his followers who were made up largely of regular

army officers. Amongst them was a clergyman, the Archimandrite, Christopher Kokkinis.

The objective was also to capture Zervas and the followers of "**EDES**". Among this group was my friend G. Mavroaenis, who was hanged from a tree, but luckily saved by a peasant working in his nearby fields.

On April 17th 1944, Psaros, a wonderful man, an excellent soldier and patriot was executed by the Communists and all his followers killed. Fortunately, Zervas and his men eluded capture and managed to escape.[13]

March 25th[14] was a big day in Cairo for members of the Greek military and civilians alike. The 25th of March is Greece's National Day, commemorating the liberation of Greece from the Turks in 1821. The day is doubly important as it marks the "Feast of The Annunciation of the Virgin", a very important date in the Orthodox calendar, officiated on this occasion by the Greek Patriach of Alexandria. Because of this important day the streets of the city were bedecked with Greek flags, all was awash with patriotic fervour. The day was marred, however, when the Greek Communists of **"EAM"** seized buildings belonging to the Greek Government, whilst in Alexandria, base of the Royal Greek Navy, banners appeared aboard the ships **"Iphestos"** and **"Ionia"** as well as the warship **"Apostolis"**. The slogans read " WE WANT GOVERNMENT BY EAM". This was the start of the Greek mutiny. The Battle of El Alamein was raging further to the West, here the Greek **"IEROS LOHOS"**, (Sacred Legion) regiment was fighting alongside "The Eighth Army" led by General Montgomery. A monument exists to the Greek dead in that desert spot starts with the words of the Creed...."I believe in the resurrection of the dead...."

The Minister of Defence, Sophocles Venizelos, anxiously broadcast to the Greeks, reminding them of the heroic part the navy had played in the war, and as this war now reached its conclusion there had been an attempt to discredit this navy by the events aboard the ships in Alexandria.

The King was also very upset and travelled as quickly as possible to Cairo from London. He spoke to the people on April 12th, 1944.

"As the political situation needs an immediate resolution. I come here to tell you that when the enemy quits our country there comes a time for the Greek people to enjoy their freedom. The people will be free to choose their own form of government and their own constitution. I am at the disposal of the people and am willing to bow to their will. But as the Enemy is still in our country we must all work together in our own interests, and in the interest of the United Nations." King George II.



Memorial for the Greek dead in the Desert War.

The King had asked the people to chose and had put his own Crown on the line. If the people were going to be free to chose their own constitution, then they were free to chose whether they wanted a King or not. Emanuel Tsouderos, a banker by profession was simply not strong enough to continue in his role of Prime Minister, and asked the King to accept his resignation.

It is sad that in his autobiography he tells how he was convinced that the men of the Court had been forewarned about the mutiny in Alexandria, by the King's cousin Prince Peter of Greece. Tsouderos although in London at the time must have known this was impossible because Prince Peter was not on speaking terms with the King nor the Court nor his own father, Prince George. The rift had been caused by Peter's marriage to Irene, a Greco-Russian Communist, and for his own pro-leftist ideas.

With the resignation of Tsouderos the King faced a situation very similar to the vacuum caused after the suicide of Koryzis in 1941. It seemed that all his Prime Ministers deserted him in the hour of his greatest need. If Churchill had resigned his post during the darkest days of the Second World War, the British would most probably have lost their struggle. Tsouderos was no Churchill. In his letter of resignation he said....

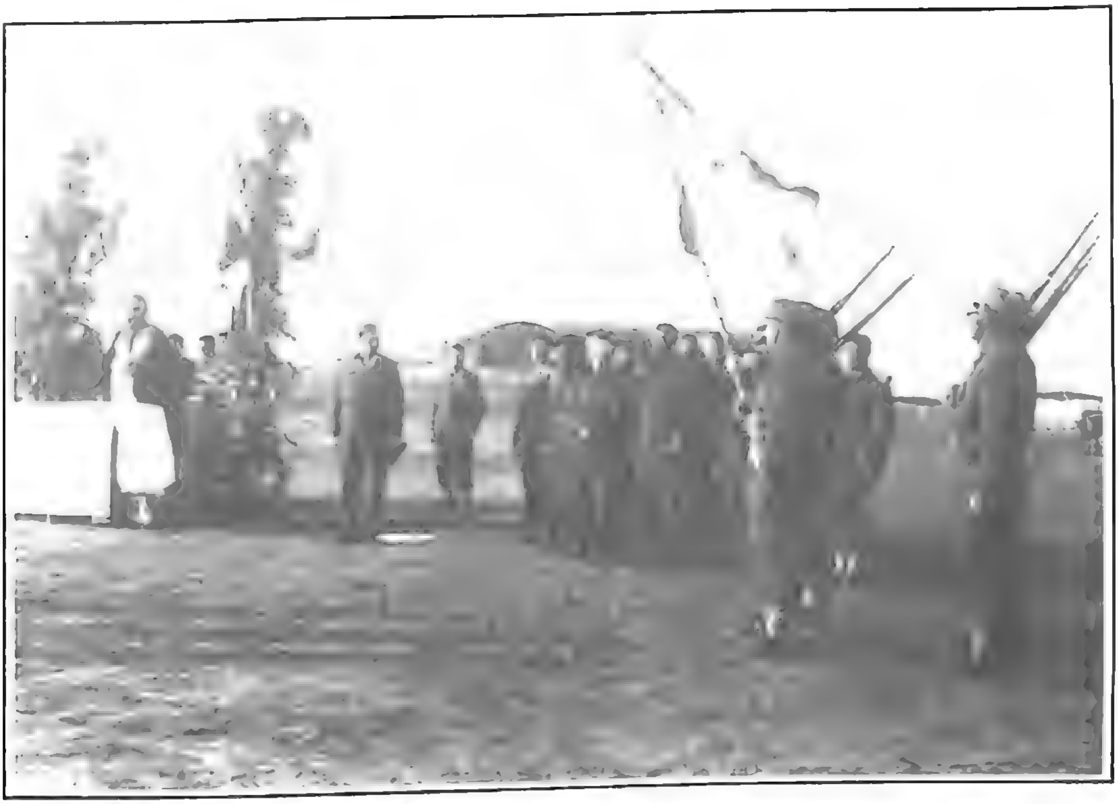
"After the seizure of the Government buildings in Cairo, it seemed to me that everything was going the way of the mutineers. It was impossible to impose the laws of the country. It was suggested by my colleagues in Government that I should resign, and entrust the premiership to the hands of the Minister of Defence, Sophocles Venizelos, in order to defuse the current situation. I therefore, resign not only as Prime Minister but from the other posts held by me.

I inform Your Majesty that I offer to my country and to you my final services and I beg you to accept my resignation without delay."[15]

The King at first refused to accept this resignation, but Tsouderos insisted and so the King was forced to name Venizelos as the next Premier of Greece. A post he conducted in an exemplary manner, reminiscent of his father Eleftharios Venizelos.

The new Prime Minister acted quickly. First he dismissed Admiral of the Fleet R. Alexandris and replaced him with Admiral Peter Voulgaris, a man who was brought out of retirement to fulfil his new responsibilities. In order to safeguard the Fleet he sent a message to Voulgaris on 16th. April 1944 ordering him.... "to ensure that the mutiny ceased immediately, and if requested by the British Admiralty....to retake the ships at once using force if necessary."

In the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo on 17th April, a meeting convened under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Venizelos, present were British



Greeks in the Desert War.



Admiral Sir John Cunningham, George Papandreou, Panayotis Kanellopoulos, P. Argyropoulos and P. Mavromichalis. Admiral Cunningham told the Greeks that in the current war situation he was unable to spare ships nor men to stand guard over the five Greek naval vessels that had mutinied in the port of Alexandria. He felt that he had no option but to sink the Greek ships. The Government asked the Admiral for a little time to prepare a plan and thus suppress the revolt themselves. This was granted.

The French Ambassador André Fontaine in his book **"La Guerre Froide"**, claims that the Greek mutiny was the start of the Cold War.

On the following day, April 18th Voulgaris was ready to act, telling Admiral Cunningham and the Prime Minister of his plan to bring the revolt to heel.

The expedition was led by Captain K. Skoufopoulos and he was assisted by Captains Vassili Kyri and N. Toumbas, who struck at 0105 hrs on the morning of April 23rd. Wearing white armbands proclaiming the word **"NIKH"** (Victory), they boarded the **"Iphestos"** and **"Ionia"**. They were under orders to use force only *in extremis.* Quickly the two ships were neutralised and an hour later at 0200 hrs, Toumbas overpowered the warship **"Apostolis"**. The Government forces did have to use force and during the fighting one of their number Rousen, the father of Mania wife of Admiral Delagrammatika, was killed. After the revolt had been crushed Voulgaris reported to his King and Prime Minister, his message read:

"CIN. MED- FOLLEM

Today Sunday April 23 at 0300 after the order for action had been received. Ierax, Sachtouris and Apostolis seized. Captains and crews are under our control. Resultant casualties 40 wounded and 6 dead from both sides. At 1000 hrs my flag will be placed on Sachtouris. Details to follow. This action is considered in keeping with the traditions of the Royal Hellenic Navy."

As we have said the 2 other ships that participated in this mutiny demanding a Communist government, **"Iphestos"** and **"Ionia"**, were retaken by Captain Toumbas.

On the King's return to London from CAIRO the British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden went to see him in his quarters at Claridges Hotel.

The King was told that the previous promise of the Greek territories of northern Epirus, held by the Albanians, being ceded to Greece would not be honoured. The reason for this British "volte face" was due to the unreliability of the Greek military in the recent mutiny in Egypt. Those responsible for the mutiny should blush at the harm done to their country.

Prior to the Allied Meeting in Paris in 1946 the recently elected Prime Minister Constantine Tsaldaris consulted with King George in London. The King told the Prime Minister to raise the whole issue of the northern Epirus question, reminding him of Eden's undertaking. After the meeting Tsaldaris reported back, telling the King that 22 of the Allied nations had voted in favour of the return of Northern Epirus, whilst 7 had voted against. The Soviets had opposed the motion because Molotov felt he did not want to...."bring sorrow to his Albanian Allies."

Now the mutiny was over, the fleet of the Royal Hellenic Navy continued the war alongside the British Royal Navy. The Army and Navy were called upon to participate in the invasion of Italy, with the specific task of liberating the Italian coast at Rimini as well as parts of the French Riviera such as Cap Cavalaire, St. Tropez and Agay. They also took part in the battle of Anzio. Another target was Salerno in Sicily as well as the Dodecanese Islands in the eastern Aegean. The King followed these events with interest.

The first Greek landing in Italy was made on the 15th August, 1944. Ironically the date fell on fourth anniversary of the torpedo attack on Tinos, which had been the first step in Greece's embroilment in the war. Victory, it seemed was fast approaching.

Winston Churchill, himself ardently following the battles aboard a British ship in the Mediterranean sent a message to the Greek Fleet:

"The Prime Minister sends his compliments and best wishes to all your officers and men.

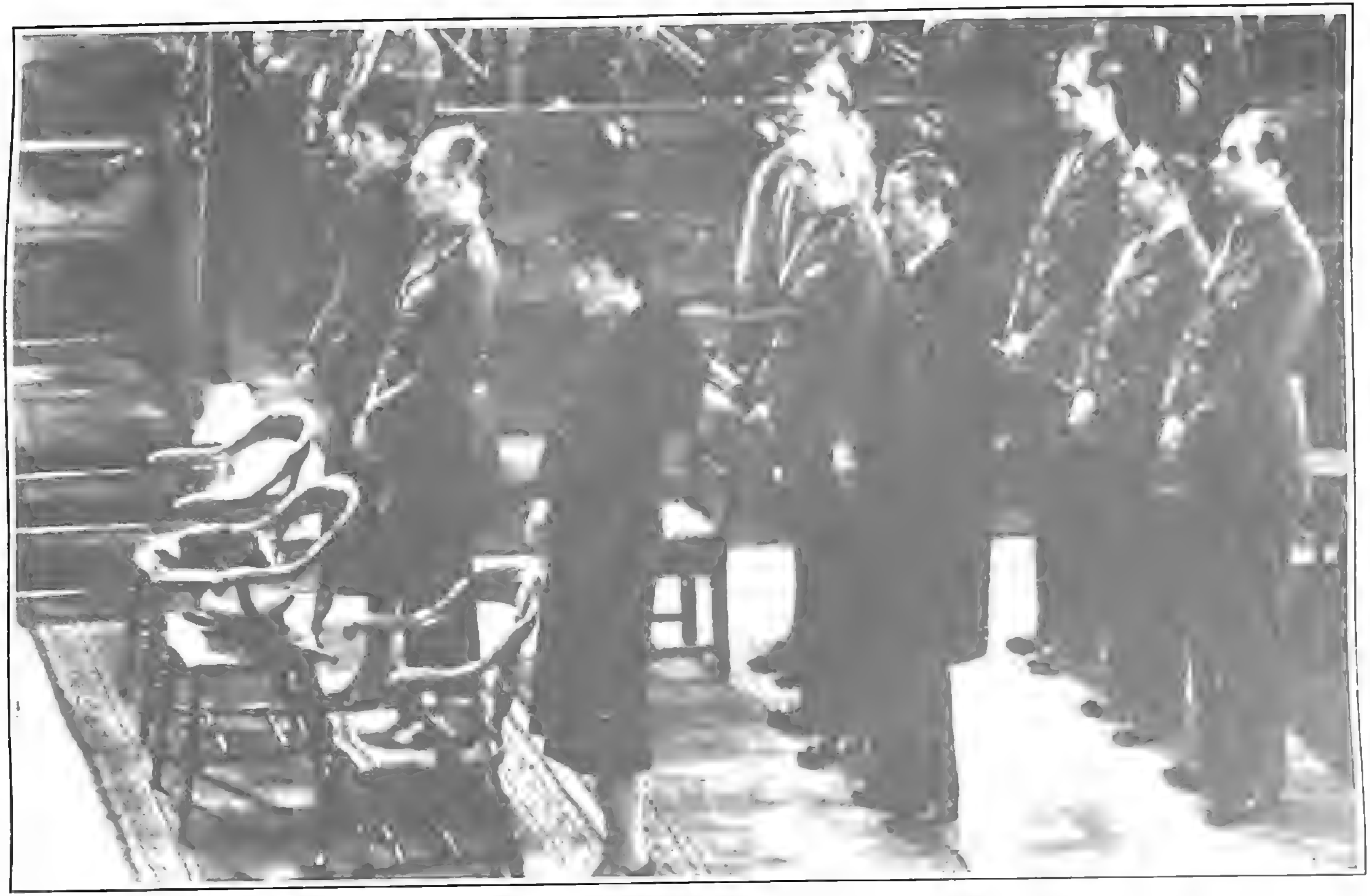
The small Greek Navy discharged itself honorably, after the earlier embarrassment of the mutiny in Alexandria, and was invited to take part in the Normandy landings. Two Greek corvettes the **"Tompazis"** and the **"Kyriazis"** along with several ships of the merchant marine were put under the command of Sir Bertrand Ramsey as part of "The Eastern Naval Task Force". The ships transported men and supplies to the Normandy beaches. My brother was liaison officer on board the **"Tompazis"**, and was an eyewitness to history in the making.

"Solent: 5th June 1944. Time 1316 hrs.

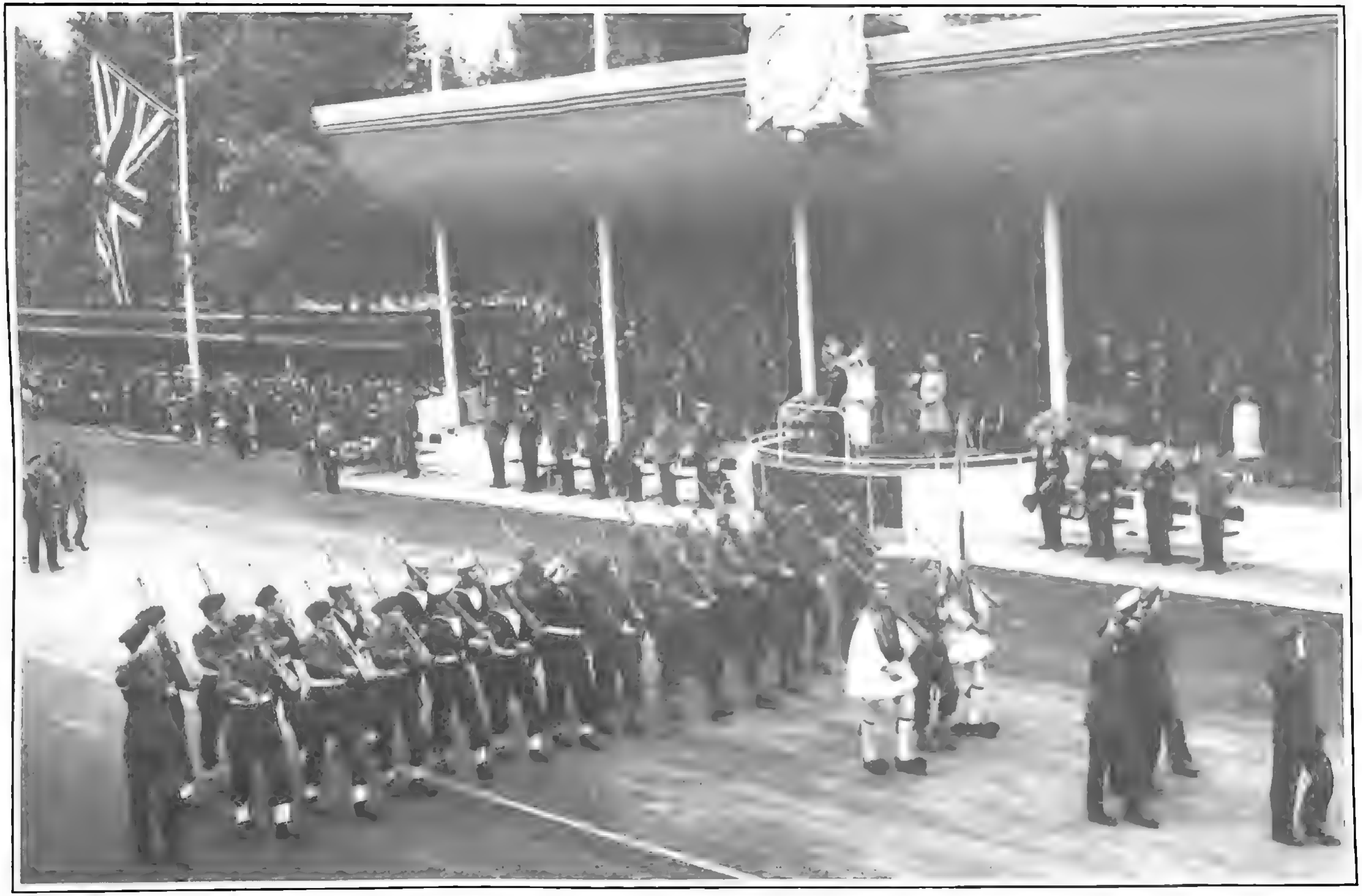
The wireless operator of the Greek Corvette "Tompazis" approached the commanding officer, George Panagiotopolos, and handed him a coded message, I happened to be standing by the commanding officer, who told me to follow him to his cabin. From the ship's safe he pulled out the envelope containing the D-Day orders.

D-Day was on!

He then asked me to call all the other officers to meet him in his cabin. The full plan of the operation was discussed and explained.



V. Day at the Greek Cathedral of S. Sophia in London. *1st row*: Marina, Duchess of Kent, King George II
2nd row: Ambassador Raul Rossetto, General Marshall D. Levitis and the Lady in Waiting of the Duchess of Kent
3rd row: Captain Sophocles Papanicolaou, Major Kinatos and Captain A. Kontomichalos.



V. Day – London, Greek Regiments parading.

1600 hrs . All hands on deck. The commanding officer made a short speech. The invasion of France is on.

This is the beginning of the liberation of Europe.

This is where the voyage back to our country begins.

There was a big cheer from all our crew and the ship became alive as the crew dispersed to prepare the ship to go to sea.

1700 hrs. We heaved anchor. We are on our way to the coast of France. Followed by 12 rocket firing landing craft which we are to escort to the beaches of Normandy.

After the first excitement was over, the whole 4 years of war came back to my mind. I as most of our crew had taken part in 3 other invasions in other ships of the Greek Navy. Sicily, Salerno and the Dodecanese. Each one of them had given us the hope that we were getting nearer to our homes but somehow this time I felt we all knew that this was it. This was the begining of our voyage back home, the return, after three years.

Three years of complete separation from our loved ones not knowing if they were alive or dead. My eyes wandered around the horizon, every kind of ship from all directions seemed to be moving one way, and above hundreds of aeroplanes filled the sky with wispy clouds from their exhausts and the thundering noise from their engines.

I do not think that I ever saw a film of this invasion that could give remotely the impression of the actual sight that met our eyes; but I think that all of us had in our eyes the sun drenched skies, the blue sea and our islands lying in the far horizon of our imagination that we were going back to.

Two men seem to be absent from the scene of the war years. Constantine Karamanlis and Andreas Papandreou. It would be interesting to investigate their field of action and grade of patriotism during these turbulent years and to note that they have, nonetheless gone on to rule Greece.

On the morning of Thursday October 12th, 1944, my youngest brother, Adrian woke me up at dawn. His excitement was uncontrollable:

"Get up, the Germans are leaving!" He shouted.

I could not believe it, was I dreaming?

We all jumped out of bed and ran to the living room balcony which overlooked the House of Parliament and the statue of the Unknown Soldier. There to our surprise and delight we saw the Mayor of Athens, Mr Georgatos, a priest and some dignitaries. They were standing opposite a small squad of German soldiers, all at attention. The Officer in charge then saluted the Mayor, in his stiff Teutonic manner and handed the Mayor the keys to the city. He saluted once again, clicked his heels, turned and marched away in the company of his soldiers.

We watched in amazement, speechless with emotion. It was really too good to be true. Another Officer lowered the Swastika, and in its place rose the blue and white Greek flag, its cross proudly flying in the breeze. The police force who had been standing in the background, suddenly burst forth singing the National Anthem, all the passers by, stopped and joined them. We stood on our terrace with tears of joy running down our faces. It was a moment never to be forgotten, as people began to kneel in Constitution Square offering their thanks to God.

As the words of the old Byzantine hymn..."Ti Ypermaho" reverberated around the Square, I was spellbound, realising that I had just witnessed a unique occasion. The land of our ancestors was once again free. As if by magic more and more flags began to appear and the singing of the National Anthem grew louder and louder. People began to hug and kiss each other in the street below, shouting "Christos Anesti" (Christ has risen).

Shortly afterwards the regiment that had fought so bravely at Rimini marched into the City, accompanied by the "Ieros Lohos"; the Sacred Legion. The soldiers marched through the dense crowd that had gathered in the square, right up to the frieze of the Unknown Soldier. Flowers found from God knows where, were thrown at the soldiers. Women rushed through the mass of people, to kiss the troops.

I wish I could live that wonderful hour again! It was an hour of spiritual ecstasy, something my ancestors would have described as : "the apotheosis of the spirit and human will. . . "

It was too good to last, another crowd appeared. Unkempt people, holding their shoes in their hands, came from nowhere. They carried red flags and were armed. They started to shout anti-royalist and anti-British slogans. They were joined by a group of prostitutes, who chanted "Down with Virginity!". They removed the Greek Flag that had just been draped on the monument of the Unknown Soldier, and replaced it with the Red hammer and sickle, symbol of Soviet power.

These demonstrations continued until three o'clock that afternoon, when a group of pro-royalist youths marched on the tomb, replacing the Soviet flag with the Greek. The boys were all representatives of "X", and we were proud to join them in the parade that followed. For several hours we marched through all the districts of central Athens, loudly singing the National Anthem and carrying Greek flags. We quickly

realised that the Communists were really only a minority, but seemed more numerous because they were only too eager to parade and show off. The real, patriots, however, did not carry guns.

Such was the situation when the Prime Minister of the Coalition Government, George Papandreou arrived in Athens a few days later. On his arrival he made a speech, which was constantly interrupted by the Communists, with cries of "Laokratia" (Power to the Masses) and "Anarchy"! Despite the heckling, Papandreou said:

"....all Greek people have honoured their country....We kneel before our dead, members of the Royal and Merchant Navies, of our Air Force....our Army in the Middle East who together with the British and their Allies won the victory of El Alamein in Libya, and the Sacred Regiment who won in Rimini. When the Nazis invaded Greece and the British left our country; they promised to return as liberators, and this they have done!"

Athens celebrated the victory. In the evening the Acropolis was illuminated and the streets of the city ablaze with light. The people were overjoyed and everyone was singing. The only blot was the Germans were still in other parts of Greece, and the fight of the Allies was still not over.

On 13th October, the venerable Flagship of the Royal Hellenic Navy, "Averoff". A vessel that had distinguished itself long ago in the Turkish Wars, accompanied by the entire Greek fleet sailed into the waters of Phaliron in Saronicos Bay. We rushed down to see them arrive. Trumpets blared and bands played the marches of The Royal Navy. Officers and sailors paraded full of happiness. What a day! The War was over!

NOTES

1. "Oh! Goddess. Oh! Beauty. Your culture signifies reason and wisdom."
2. "Forbidden".
3. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.
4. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent.
5. Queen Louise of Sweden.
6. Sister of Lord Mountbatten and of Princess Alice of Greece.
7. Churchill was taken prisoner during the Boer War by Smuts. He later escaped.
8. Princess Eugenie, daughter of Prince George and Marie Bonaparte, married to Dominic, Prince Radziwill. Divorced and later married to Prince von Thurn und Taxis.
9. Princess
10. Excerpts from published letter. See AMU 48-49.
11. Exact transcription found amongst the Communist Archives.
12. His Eminence, Agathonikos, the Bishop of Aigalia and Kalavryta; eyewitness to the massacre.
13. Taken from "Psaros 5/42" by Papayiannopoulos
14. From Admiral Fokas's "Action of the Royal Navy 1940-44".
15. E. Tsouderos: "Irregularities of Greek Policies in the Middle-East".



London, 29th November 1945. Cathedral of S. Sophia. King George II, best man at Lilika Maris and Sophocles Papanicolaou's wedding.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Royal Family returns to Greece

Although unable to return to her homeland, Princess Frederica sought to continue and intensify her relief work from abroad. On October 20th, 1944 she wrote to Mr. Benaki ex-president of the Greek Red Cross.

"October 20th, 1944 Alexandria, (Egypt)

Dear Mr. Benaki,

It is such a joy to write to Greece and get in contact with our friends, who have never been out of our minds and hearts. God bless you all. I only wish we could be there in our beloved Greece amongst our own people. If we are not there yet it is not our fault. My husband has tried his utmost to return to Greece since June 1943 to join our heroes in the mountains. If he failed to do so it was because of all sorts of difficulties that were put in his way. However I hope and pray that we will be with you soon. I would now like to ask you a great favour. I have prepared quite a lot such as shoes, blankets, clothing etc. My Organisation has been working all over the African continent specially Egypt and South Africa. I have prepared 25 mobile clinics, including surgical units, children's units and blood transfusion units. All these things I want to send to Greece as soon as possible. I must have a good and efficient committee in Athens, that will undertake full responsibility.

Please will you help me and organise a committee?

The committee is to receive the goods that will be sent from here, store them, sort them and advise me of how and when they should be used. The clinics are the most valuable as they are fully equipped with instruments that cannot be bought or

replaced I would like the Red Cross to run them and keep an eye on them. Each clinic needs a doctor, nurse, driver and helper. They can be used anywhere in Greece. Please let me know what you can do about all this so we can send you further details and start working. I apply to you and trust you will give me all your help and support. Thanking you with all my heart.

The triumphant Allied Forces returned to Greece on the heels of the German withdrawal in October 1944. As Winston Churchill later stated:

"The King of the Hellenes and his brother naturally wished to return at the head of this small expedition. However, the British policy, long declared, had been to seek a plebiscite on the monarchist issue, and the King deferred to our wishes and awaited in London the decision of the Greek Nation."

As early as 4th July 1943, King George had declared that upon liberation the Constitution of 1911, suspended by Metaxas in 1936, would be reinstated and that a new government would be formed to decide Greece's future. In fact he had even agreed to have the monarchy submitted to a plebiscite after stability had been restored. Nevertheless, in order to help the Allies with more control over the internal situation in Greece he eventually agreed to be represented by a Regent, and not to return until a referendum was held.

By October a new government headed by George Papandreou, which included representatives from the entire Greek political spectrum also returned to Athens. This stage was set for the creation of a new Greece after the horrible suffering of its people under fascist occupation. But before serious reconstruction could begin the Nation was again plunged into another war. King George had repeatedly warned the Allies against supporting leftist guerrillas fighting against the Germans in Greece. He frequently advised them "... to beware of the Organisations of "ELAM" and "ELAS" they are Communists led by the Bolsheviks of Russia, and one day they will raise their arms which are yours against you and your own people." The Allies had not respected his advice and only when the day of liberation came did they understand, too late, that British and Greek troops not only had to fight the Germans but the Greek Communist Army inside the country.

In the meantime Frederica was also active in the struggle to help the people. Shortly after Greece fell, when the Princess arrived in Egypt the first thing she decided to do was to work for Greece. Thus she formed a Committee called "The Crown Princess Fund". Soon afterwards she moved to South Africa and continued her relief work from there. She was at Cape Town where she organised another committee. The organization in Egypt was taken over by Irene, the morganatic wife of Prince Peter, who ran it without Frederica's permission, supposedly on her behalf. When the Crown Princess arrived in Alexandria in 1943 this fund started functioning. A relative of King Farouk, Princess Shevikar was one of the first ladies to help the

Crown Princess collect money which was used to buy cars, clothing and medical supplies for Greece.

At the time, I was one of hundreds of charity workers in liberated Athens. When we learned of this magnificent letter we were all very happy and relieved. The Army had successfully done its duty and freed us from the hated invaders. But we had been less successful because we did not have the necessary resources to help our people. Our villages had been burned by the Germans and the Communists. Our children most of them orphans, were like skeletons running in the streets, our fields were devastated, people homeless, illnesses like typhoid, hepatitis and malaria ran rampant. This terrible time of destruction had not occurred in any other country in Europe. At that moment the Princess letter and humanitarian supplies were of incredible value and filled a great need. Unfortunately they arrived much later than we expected because Mr. Benakis was en route to receive the goods when he was caught and held hostage by the Communists. Neither could we contact Frederica in Egypt, to tell her that the supplies had not arrived.

King George in London also tried to bolster our courage from abroad. Aware that he must closely look after our county's interest in order to follow and influence the important decisions that our Allies were making there, sent us the following message:

"October 19th, 1944

Hellenes,

The battle for the freedom for Greece continues and will terminate soon. The diplomatic battle now starts, which is equally important. In full conscience of my responsible mission I will continue with all my strength so as to assure all the fruits of our battles and sacrifices. I will not stop in front of any obstacle before the name of eternal Greece which I deigned to lead to the biggest moment of its modern history. I appeal to all Hellenes to be united and to obey the National Government so as to protect the enormous capital which we now possess. We cannot afford to be the loser two steps before the end, of whatever we have gained in this so long struggle.

George II
King of the Hellenes."

As Lord Moran relates in his diary in August 1944, Churchill's mind was full of forebodings about what would happen when the Germans left Athens:

"The Communists will seize power and his aim is to thwart their purpose.... It appears that he is thinking of landing a small force in Athens to strengthen the Greek Government. Winston never talks of Hitler these days, he is always harping on the

danger of communism. He dreams of the Red Army spreading like a cancer from one country to another. It has become an obsession, and he seems to think of little else."[1]

Despite our King's appeal for National Unity the Communists through the political organization "EAM" and their army ELAS", controlled much of the countryside terrorising the inhabitants, they refused to disarm and turn in their guns and join in the national army of reconstruction of the country. Emboldened by the small Allied Force that supported our Government in Athens, its leadership made unreasonable demands on the Papandreou Government designed to put themselves in a dominant position.

On December 1st, 1944 Lieutenant General Scobie, commander of the British Forces in Greece issued a stern statement declaring his intention to preserve order and commanding "ELAS" and "EDES" the two prominent Underground organizations to demobilise by 10th December, as had been agreed upon during previous negotiations. On December 2nd, the "EAM" Ministers of the coalition Government, resigned and called for a massive demonstration in the centre of Athens for the following day. This demonstration was to be the catalyst for armed revolt against the lawful Government. This indicates that "EAM" alone, wanted to rule the country in spite of the will of the people. In fact the leadership had already decided upon a violent seizure of power some days before. Blood was spilled during that fateful Sunday, just as the Communists had planned. From this point on the Government and the British were attacked by "ELAS" troops throughout the country. The "second round" of the Communist war had begun. Churchill's policy of resistance to this Communist insurrection was unpopular among some segments of the British public. Our King had won his unequivocal support for the protection of Greek freedom, but the cost in British lives caused political difficulties. There were some who did not understand the realities of Greece's internal situation and thought that it was wrong of Britain to interfere in a foreign domestic struggle. The British Prime Minister, though fully understood that the struggle against "EAM" and "ELAS" was a struggle against international Communism, the first battle of the post second world war, cold war era.

Britain's support of the Greek Government was brought to a vote in Parliament shortly after fighting broke out in the streets of Athens. The Times reported on December 9th that the challenge to the government action in Greece was treated as an issue of confidence in the House of Commons on the previous day and its action was supported by a vote of 279 to 30. Mr. Seymour Cocks sought to present the guerrillas of "ELAS" as the "friends of democracy in Greece." He was silenced by the unforgettable words of Winston Churchill who brought a bolt of reality to the discussion by saying that:

"Democracy is not a harlot to be picked up in the street by a man with a tommy gun! If the iron rule of ruffians seeking to fly into the seats of power was to masquerade as democracy, the House would unite in condemning it as a mockery."

The King played a crucial role in giving the British Prime Minister the political support of the Greek Government for his courageous stand on behalf of Greece's freedom.

Churchill had previously slighted the King, which irritated him, and so on 12th December, King George wrote a letter to Winston Churchill. The letter was delivered by his Political Advisor, the Ambassador Takis Pipinelis, who arrived to hand it over at 2am to the Prime Minister at number 10, Downing Street. Pipinelis was accompanied by the King's secretary, Stelios Hourmozious. Hourmozios was made to wait in an ante-room, whilst Pipinelis delivered the letter to Churchill personally.

The King in this letter expressing his sorrow over the killing of British soldiers in Greece stated that:

"I must remind you that a lot of Greek soldiers have been killed for the honour and freedom of Greece, as well as for the Battle of Britain and human respect, and never has any Greek leader thought to express his regrets at the sacrifice.... I never thought of myself and am ready for every sacrifice as a soldier who serves his country.... This is why I accepted some Ministers who not only undermining but were undermining the friendship of Allies and the Greek national Army. I mentioned to you previously not to give any help to the Communists because they would turn against you...."

The letter finished with dramatic words. King George mentioned the dates of his previous correspondence with Churchill to remind him of his remarks about "EAM" and "ELAS" and warnings that they were preparing armed forces against the Allies and the Greeks. He closed his letter with the words...

In case your excellency, you abandon the Greek people to Communist slaughter you will never in the future have the right to look in the eyes an honest man.

Hourmozious seated outside, noticed that the door to the next room was slightly ajar. In the next room a meeting was in progress. He saw Churchill entering the room holding the King's letter aloft, gleefully exclaiming:

"I've got it. I've got it ! Ask Attlee, my Cabinet and Roosevelt to support that honest man."

Churchill telephoned the American President and his own Cabinet who unanimously decided to stand by the Greeks and their National Army.

It is our personal opinion that Churchill purposely prompted the King into writing to him, in order to secure a document that he could use in support of both King George and the Greeks. One must not forget that while the Communists made

their bid for power in Athens the German threat to our freedom was still a reality. Tragically, this new war also brought all humanitarian efforts to a standstill. This point was made by General Maitland Wilson on his departure from Greece. At that time he told reporters:

"There were Germans within 100 miles of Athens in Crete and the Aegean and Dodecanese islands. We were using our own naval bases in Greece against the Germans and also for introducing orderly relief into that sorely tried Country so as to produce, eventually conditions under which the Greeks could hold free elections. Since we arrived these irresponsible extremists had tried to defeat these Greek with a result that some of our forces had to be turned to the soldiers invidious task of aiding the civil power. Relief had come to a standstill and our operations against the Germans were hampered....Certain of these extremists had been rounded up and many of them had found to be deserters from the German and Bulgarian armies."

Obviously the majority of these Communist rebels were outsiders planted in Greece in order to overthrow the lawful Government. This is why all of the contemporary Greek Government and British and American correspondents refer to the hostilities as created by Communist outsiders who took advantage of the starving and most desperate portions of the Greek population.

Like thousand of my countrymen I vividly recall those dark days in beleaguered Athens. On December 14th, we woke up in the morning with no water or electricity. The streets were full of people with guns and faces red with anger. Communists with hat bands bearing the words "ELAS" spoke through loudspeakers calling on all Greeks to take part in the revolt and join them in the struggle against the British and monarco-fascists. Terrorists with revolvers in their hands were killing people without reason. All of us kept to our homes with no means of communication as the telephones were out of order. At sunset curfew came into operation imposed by the followers of "EAM". As darkness came a church bell tolled as if for a funeral. The Communists were the masters of Athens and it was as if the Government did not exist. Tannoys announced that this was the night of St. Bartholomew. We all knew that on that night Catherine de Medici had given the order for the Paris massacre. We all trembled with fear. The greatest fear of the war, our Allies had completely neglected us, and our new persecuters began collecting hostages from amongst the officers of the Greek Army decorated during the War, clergymen, university professors, doctors, lawyers, porters, butchers, young women and girls. They rounded up decent people from industrialists to the lower levels of Athenian society whom they accused of being German collaborators. They called all their opponents traitors and collaborators and coined a new term of derision for the friends of Britain and the United States, calling these people "Scobites". Lieutenant General Reginald Scobie was the British Commander at that time and according to the Communists we who were his supporters were all traitors and should be killed. "Ieros Lohos" and the "Third Division of Rimini" as well as policemen were the particular targets of Communist insurgents.

They occupied most of the Police stations and murdered everyone they found there. They knocked at the doors of houses and flats, and shot dead the persons who answered the knock. General Thrasyvoulos Tsakalotos, Brigadier General of the famous Third Division of Rimini was the one to take charge of the situation.

He has written a first hand detailed account of the Battle of Athens. His entry of December 11th, 1944 states the following:

"I was summoned by the 23rd English Regiment in Athens (Ilissia) to receive an important order from General Scobie. Present were the commanders of the British Units, the British and the Greek Chiefs of Staff. They announced that the decision was that we evacuate Athens and go to Phaliron. I was to give them an answer by 2am. When I returned, I told them that my Regiment will defend our forefather's soil. Up until today we have fought for victory having opposed powerful enemies (Germans and Italians). My Regiment cannot abandon its dead and wounded and the emaciated Greek population to the hands of Communist slaughterers. My men have decided to be victorious over the enemy, who up until now have not succeeded in defeating us. If they abandon their country which is more beloved to them than family, their morale will fall. If your decision to withdraw is final, I beg you to leave us weapons and we alone will continue this battle."

These words caused great emotion amongst the Allies and Tsakalotos assured them that all of his men agreed, for every one was a volunteer and were proud of the fact that they had returned to Greece. He was right. The Greek Army remained in isolated areas of free Athens and eventually defeated the Communist menace that tried to engulf the land.

General Scobie's report for December 15th, stated that: "At 7:25 am this morning insurgent forces launched an unprovoked attack against Indian Troops on the mainland of Greece, north of Patras. In Athens and Piraeus fighting continued after the temporary lull of yesterday. Yesterday insurgent artillery was again in action in the centre of Athens. In Piraeus an attack supported by mortar fire was made against British troops at the western end of Phaliron Bay. It was repulsed after heavy fighting. Guerrilla activity continued in the Salonica area and the situation was not eased.

On the same day that Tsakalotos's Regiment made its stand for freedom, Field Marshal Alexander came to Athens to examine the local situation. The Allies controlled only a four square kilometre block area in the centre of Athens. The Hotel "Grande Bretagne" was their HQ and thus the capital of Greece. General Alexander quickly realised just how desperate the situation was and ordered a division en route to Italy be diverted to Greece. It was crucial that the Allies still held Athens airport and a section of the port of Piraeus. This fact allowed reinforcements to arrive and helped turn the tide of battle.

Accompanied by Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Field Marshal Alexander, Churchill himself came to war-torn Athens on December 24th. Their purpose was to negotiate an end to the fighting now "EAM" realised that it could not occupy Athens without prolonged strife. In fact, due to the determined resistance and counter-attacks of the Greek Government and British Forces, many "ELAS" units had already begun to withdraw from the city. Among the bargaining points they had, was the recommendation that King George continue to stay out of Greece and now be represented by a Regent. It was particularly sad that our heroic King was prevented from returning to his country by insurgents who had not contributed to Allied Victory.

Sometimes fate plays a cruel joke: that situation was comic in the light of our cruel destiny.

Declaration from the Government:

"Guerrillas of "ELAS"... 20 days ago you turned your guns against your country. Those guns were provided by our allies the British, to be used against the Germans. Unfortunately, the Germans left peacefully, but you have turned these guns against the British who for four years helped and struggled with us to regain our nation. Your political leaders have betrayed you, because it has been their intention to impose a dictatorship upon our country. Men such as Tzimas are mouthpieces for Bulgarian propaganda, a man who declared that the Bulgarian language be taught in the schools of Western Macedonia.

Your military leaders although failures in life have compensated by seeking power in order to govern this unfortunate Greece.

Guerrillas of "ELAS", yesterday a radio broadcast informed us that the Albanians invaded Epirus, and Bulgarians entered Western Macedonia, where they slaughter the people. What a shame! The victorious are now defeated!

I ask you why? In your terrorist bands you have been joined and are now commanded by Bulgarians, Germans and Italians, masquerading as Communists.

Hellenes, why don't the Bulgarians invite you to go to Bulgaria, collaborate with the Germans, dissolve their army and then take it over and become their officers?

No, they haven't invited you to do this ! Instead they infiltrated your guerrilla cells and took advantage of you. The stupidity, ambitions and amorality of your leaders who want to destroy your land, and to take Macedonia and Thrace.

The Cabinet asks you for the final time, to turn your guns against the German,

Bulgarian and Italian infiltrators of your Army. Having done this then give those arms to your country. Join the Greek National Army and help us rebuild Greece.

We promise those who lay down those arms within 48 hours, a general amnesty. Only your leaders will stand guilty as assassins. Those of you who do not heed this truce will be tried as mutineers in time of war, and thus traitors to Greece. Your homes, possessions and money will be requisitioned by the Country.

People of Greece, we know you live under tyranny. Be patient! After our liberation from the Germans, we formed five well-armed regiments, and with the aid of these regiments we shall, in a short while, re-impose law and order.

We promise the entire country, the freedom to choose your own Constitution and your own Government. Our country will retake its honourable position in the midst of our Allies. A position that is rightfully ours due to the blood we shed. The law of the nation will be imposed in spite of the demands of the terrorists and our enemies."

by Prime Minister of the Government, George Papandreou and his Cabinet of Ministers.[2]

On December 29th, 1944 "The Times" reported that: "... a complementary operation, Greek troops of the Mountain Brigade drove south far west from the eastern edge of Athens partly clearing the districts of the Stadium. When the whole operation is completed, the British and the Greek regulars will have completely cleared the whole of the southern half of Athens...."

General Scobie reported that Athens and Piraeus were slowly being cleared of "ELAS" insurgents and that an attack upon the airport had been repulsed. The fact that Winston Churchill had come to Greece lent great resolve to all of those fighting for freedom. Morale was uplifted, and we knew no matter what the cost we would win control of our country. It was at this time the Communists made two attempts to assassinate the British Prime Minister.

The first was through the placing of explosives in the "Grande Bretagne" Hotel where he was meeting with officials from the Government. This plot failed due to the vigilance of sentries who discovered the bomb before it went off. The second attempt occurred at the port of Piraeus. The British officials were based upon the cruiser "Ajax", anchored within range of "ELAS" artillery located on high ground overlooking the harbour. These 77mm guns opened fire on the ship whilst Churchill was aboard. One of the shells closely missing its target. (London Times December 29th, 1944).

Churchill, Eden and his party met with the leaders of "EAM" and "ELAS" along with representatives from other political parties in the "Grande Bretagne" Hotel

on December 28th. Siantos continued to make outrageous demands in a rude and arrogant manner. General Plastiras, a staunch republican, silenced the Communist leader. The only thing agreed upon at this meeting was that the Archbishop of Athens, Damaskinos would act as Regent for the time being.

A British Embassy statement from Athens, dated December 28th, quoted by **The Times** stated that: "... the overwhelming desire of those present for the immediate establishment of a regency as an essential prelude to the solution of many problems.

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden undertook on behalf of HM Government to recommend the acceptance of this course to the King of the Hellenes.

It was also on this momentous day that George Papandreou resigned, again **"The Times"**:

"The Greek Prime Minister has virtually resigned his office and is expected to submit his formal resignation as soon as the Regent has been appointed. He sent a telegram to the King of the Hellenes announcing that he had placed his resignation at the disposal of Greek political circles."

It was on the same day that Churchill and Eden flew back to London and reported to the War Cabinet soon after landing: "...After the Cabinet meeting the King of the Hellenes called on Prime Minister Churchill... First he saw when in Athens that no progress could be made until the King of the Hellenes agreed to the appointment, not only of a regent but of a particular regent, the Archbishop Damaskinos.

The meeting between King George and Mr. Churchill was very agitated."

After the meeting with Churchill the King returned to his base at Claridges and told his Court:

"I don't want to desert my people, but if my people and the politicians ask me to do so, I will do it, knowing that I have done my duty towards my country and my people."

So on Churchill's insistence, the King named Archbishop Damaskinos, Regent. A month later rumours reached London that the Archbishop was trying to persuade the Allies to bring pressure on the King to abdicate, as well as his successor Prince Paul, who would renounce his rights to the throne in favour of young Prince Constantine, then aged only four.

END OF THE ORDEAL
ARMISTICE:

On January 11th 1945 at 22.30 hrs a truce between the Government and the Communists of "EAM" took place. It came into effect at 0100 hrs on the morning of January 15th, on the orders of the overall commander of the Mountain Brigade, Wyer. General Tsakalotos claimed another victory for his regiment. The mopping up operation then began. 800 terrorists were taken in Northern Greece. In the Peloponese 445 were captured at midnight on the 15th and a further 568 captured from the "9th Brigade of ELAS". On the following day, the 16th January, an additional 600 Members of the same regiment laid down their weapons, but the surrender of arms was under duress. Major Spiliotonouei had Spyliot to threaten his captives with death to enforce the order.[3]

This was the end of the Communist revolt. Once again we had won, due largely to Tsakalotos's Mountain Brigade of Rimini and the honourable politicians of the time; Greeks such as General Nicholas Plastiras, George Papandreou, Themistocles Souphoulis, Sophocles Venizelos and Constantine Tsaldaris. The British Prime Minister Churchill and some members of his Government, as well as Generals Alexander, Maitland Wilson, Scobie and Admiral Cunningham had all played a role in Greece's defeat of the Communist menace.

Was this really going to be the end of the killings? The Communists threatened future bloodshed when they embarked on "The Third Round". As always freedom had to be paid for, with blood a much more expensive commodity than mere money!

As mentioned before "ELAS" had been infiltrated by German and Bulgarian "Fifth Columnists", who set out to fulfill Hitler's promise of reducing Greece to a field of ruins. We had won, but we were drained, reduced to nervous rags. Many of my friends had been cruelly murdered by Communists. Their feet smashed by hammers, the soles of their feet lacerated by scythes, their eyes gouged out by hoes, and young women with their breasts cut off. The glory of the past was clouded by the brutal reality of the present.

The field of Marathon, the site of the battle which halted the Persian advance into Greece, was the Greek equivalent of "the killing fields of Cambodia". The ancient battle field was strewn with these dead and crushed bodies, the glaring result of Communist brutality. Bodies lying out in the sun, the food of hawks and crows. What a dreadful illustration of our sorrow. The words of Goethe come to mind:

"Who never ate his bread in sorrow
Who never spent his night
Weeping and waiting for the morrow
Knows you not Oh, divine power."

I visited this dreadful place and saw these atrocities myself, whilst walking among the bodies two villagers approached us and told us of their horrific experiences.

"Oh Miss! They were demons. The "ELAS" soldiers came, many of them speaking languages we didn't understand, and told us that they would kill us if we didn't leave. We haven't seen such cruelty before. Even the Germans were better! The cries of those forlorn people ... the cries of the children will forever ring in our ears. Why did God let this happen? Why has he allowed us to suffer like this?"

So we left Marathon, leaving parents to search for the bodies of their children. Their plaintive cries still echo in my head. To think that the Communists compared incidents such as this to jewels, is almost impossible to credit:

"TEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE OF KKE (Communist Party of Greece.)

The struggle of December 1944 was a popular armed resistance against the reactionary coup d'état, which sought to repress the uneventful and peaceful democratic evolution of the country. It is the diamond of the struggle of our nation for a democratic re-creation and the freedom of Greece.... The struggle of December places Greece in the front line of the battle for the freedom of the people.... We are crushing the dark powers of force for the benefits of the anti-fascist powers in a war for democracy and national freedom."

Like many others Anthony Benakis was released by his Communist captors, and the first thing he did after receiving his freedom was to reply to Queen Frederica's letter of October 1944.

"29th December, 1944 Athens.

Madam,

... The New Red Cross Committee, is determined to do everything it can to help our unhappy people, in every possible way and I am writing at the request of my nephew, President of the Red Cross, to implore your Highness to do everything you can to help. He of course attaches the greatest importance to Your Royal Highness' mobile clinics and vast quantities of winter clothing and blankets, your efforts have so successfully got together.

We are without food, without water, without electricity, without any means of communications, without money. The hospitals have been destroyed. Thousands of people have been taken hostage and are suffering untold agonies. Thousands have been murdered. Our houses are full of refugees from parts of the town occupied by the Communists, and we all run the risk of being shot whilst walking along the streets

or sitting in our houses. I will not continue describing our living conditions, they are really too harrowing ...

Always yours, most respectfully

A. Benaki

To HRH Princess Frederica, Crown Princess of Greece."

The cars and goods promised by Frederica arrived in Greece, and the clinics were set up. Volunteers of the Red Cross moved about the country helping the people. Elli Zelokostas, a Red Cross volunteer tells of the first relief the people in the devastated countryside received. The misery and terror of the war years and the ensuing revolt had taken their toll. Conditions were appalling. Many families had lost at least one if not more members. The Red Cross was the only source of relief available as the Government did not have the time nor the resources to offer much in the way.

February 1945.

What a day! All of us alive after that terrible turmoil. My fiancé arrived in Athens on a special mission for King George. My brother, Michael docked upon the corvette "Tombazis", in excellent health both of them. Happy to see them alive. My mother told us the time had come to officially announce our engagements. Mine to Sophocles Papanicolau and Lena to my brother. This party was the first reception held in our house since war began. We were showered with presents of jewellery and clothes all in one day. We could hardly believe our eyes. My fiancé, Sophocoles, and my brother Michael stayed only a fortnight, before returning to their duties. They left and I realised I wanted to leave Greece myself. I wanted to escape all this death and destruction. I wanted to see my father and go out into another world. My fiancé wanted us to marry and be happy like everyone else. So he arranged with the help of General Alexander's HQ for me to leave on a military aircraft. At the last moment my seat was taken by a diplomatic courier. Desperately, trying to find another means of transport, an uncle of mine appeared, John Paleocrasas, and told us that one of his cargo ships was lying in the port of Piraeus and I could have a berth to Alexandria. On boarding the ship, I found my cousins and some other friends. Certainly the Mediterranean was still full of mines, but who cared, the thought never crossed my mind. After a voyage of three days we arrived in Alexandria in the middle of June.

There waiting for me were Prince Paul's ADCs. Flight Captain C. Potamianos and Captain Mavrogenis along with his sister Machi. They took me at once to a hotel, and that evening we all had dinner together. They presented me with a full diary of invitations to Greek and Egyptian homes in the city, all were friends of the Prince. Next day I had lunch with Prince Paul and Princess Frederica and to my surprise one

of the guests was Sophocles Venizelos. Although I was strongly pro-royalist and we were not supporters of Venizelos, but his conduct during the past year had been first class, so we all enjoyed a very friendly conversation. That evening a big party was held by Mrs. Argyni Salvagos and I was included amongst the guests. I couldn't believe my eyes at the beauty and civilised way people lived. I had quite forgotten such things were possible. I felt I had been transported to paradise by an angel.

I was spellbound to see the garden beautifully lit, the Egyptian waiters dressed in white "salvars" resplendent in white turbans and red and gold embroidered jackets. The tables weighed down by shining silver. My God the dresses of the ladies! Their jewellery blinding me, whilst they talked and laughed happily, what a contrast to the last five years of my life!

When I told Mrs. Salvagos, the aunt of my friends Argyni and Lena (now Samaras) that I didn't believe that people could live like that she replied: "My poor child, we followed the horrors that you all went through. You were in our thoughts all the time."

On the following day I was invited by the couple S. Sidarous Pasha, ex-Egyptian Ambassador to Greece and his wife, to their beautiful villa in the city. His wife Marie-Agathe embraced me fondly expressing her delight that I had escaped from Greece unscathed. We went out onto the verandah and there below in the garden, were over 200 Allied Officers ... British, American French and Greek ... to whom she announced....

"Here is a young girl who has escaped from tortured Greece." The officers replied by bursting into the Greek song "Akoma ena Potiraki", a song which had become the unofficial Greek anthem. Loula Nomikos was also at that reception and she invited me to spend the following day with her at home. This I did. She told me all about her time in South Africa with Princess Frederica, about the charity work they did there and the wonderful friendship, Frederica had with Smuts. I expressed surprise at seeing Venizelos at the Crown Princess' luncheon party, and Loula an ardent royalist told me that when she met the man she was really shocked. So shocked that she could not disguise her surprise. Frederica understood the reaction and invited my friend for a cup of coffee on the following day, where she explained that royalist and Venezilist policies were just a minute in the long history of Greece. As Greece is a small country with a tiny population, we could not divide the nation, we had all to be united. We had to forget the past and now look forward to the future. As a matter of fact I found that she was perfectly right in this respect, and we talked about the implications for a long time. We both agreed that the past must be forgotten, so we could confront the new enemy of communism.

And so life continued in Egypt, swimming in the Sidi Bishr, diving into the big waves of Mandara, sailing dinghies and evening dinners at the beautiful "Romance

Restaurant". Visits to Cairo, and staying at the "Mena House Hotel" in Giza near the Pyramids. Visiting those Pyramids at sunrise, and all the time surrounded by cousins and friends, letting me forget the sad years we had passed in Greece. One day over lunch with Princes Frederica at Loula's house, I told her how amazed I was by the dazzling life in Egypt, and she told me to be careful as I was alone. The Princess, despite her youth had a strong character and intelligence beyond her years. She told me of an embarrassing episode that occurred during a reception in Alexandria, attended by King Farouk. When Paul and she arrived in the beautiful garden site of the party, she noticed Queen Farida was absent. She was told the Queen was upstairs. According to Egyptian tradition the Queen had to remain separate from the guests. Frederica went up to meet Farida. She found the Egyptian in a room, smoking a cigarette, and they chatted happily together. Suddenly a young lady in waiting burst in warning her that the King was on his way upstairs. Immediately Farida put out the cigarette saying that Farouk did not like her to smoke. When the King entered the room, the Queen left Frederica and Farouk alone. The Egyptian King looked at the Greek Crown Princess, stating that he liked pretty ladies. Fredrerica said that was wonderful. The King then looked out of the window saying: "Look at all those girls down there, I know many of them!" Frederica replied politely, not realising the intent of his comment. The King moved closer to her, and she sensed that she was in a difficult position. Embarrassed she quickly asked:

"Do you know my husband?"

The King rapidly retorted, asking her if she loved him. Understanding that Frederica did not want his attention: "I am also very much in love with my wife". With that he quickly left the room. Her attitude saved the situation, which could have ended badly.

We were surprised by this episode, but then I heard that Farouk frequently made passes at women in this manner. I was really surprised that a King could behave in this medieval way.

At the end of June a message arrived from my fiancé that he had arranged for me to leave Port Said, on the troop ship, "Andes" bound for Southampton. So at the beginning of July I said good-bye to Egypt and happily sensing I was arriving at the end of my journey set sail for England. The ship had aboard, troops who had served in Burma along with some ladies belonging to the British Diplomatic Corps, Wrens, and a contingent of Italian prisoners who were to be disembarked in Naples. The Mediterranean was full of mines, a ship ahead the "Nieuw Amsterdam" was sunk by one. Aboard our ship were the English widows, whose husbands had been killed by the Japanese, with them were their fatherless children homeward bound for England. The ship docked in Naples, which had been recently liberated by the Allies. The streets of the city were alive with music, interspersed with Neapolitan songs to welcome the POWs home. It was a folkloric event. Sirens sounded every morning to

awaken us to take our places on deck for lifeboat drill. We were obliged to wear our life jackets throughout the day. We all dressed for dinner, and arrived bedecked with mae wests at our tables, which made eating very DIFFICULT. There were only three ladies at our table, the others were men, British and French officers. My job was to act as interpreter. Ten days later our ship dropped anchor in Southampton. We were welcomed by a small band playing war marches. The tragedy was the return of the war widows to their families. I saw my father and my fiancé waiting on the quayside for me, and I tried to put out of mind all the miseries of the past. For me it was the moment of joy which overtook my whole existence.

My father looked older and tears were running down his cheeks. He hugged me and told me I looked wonderful: "How I missed you all!" I was saddened to see my father growing older. My fiancé looking so handsome, and I turned my head ... here was my future, overjoyed to see him. The boat train took us to London. We went straight to my father's house close to Marble Arch. We had a splendid dinner that night. My father dearly loved Sophocles, who had spent most of the war years with him in London, and was now delighted to see us reunited so happily.

Sophocoles told me that the King expected us to have tea with him in his apartment at Claridge's Hotel, at four o' clock the next afternoon.

My father and I arrived at Claridge's, where my fiancé was waiting and we went up to the King's apartment on the first floor. When I saw King George, I felt very emotional. It was the first time I had met him. For me he was a war hero, who had gone through so much in order to save my country and contribute to the Allied cause. This gentleman soldier, received me with great kindness and understanding and immediately told me:

"I know my child what you went through. Far too young to face such horrors. Here at least we had only to face German bombs. The fascists could not bring the full force of their hatred upon us here, unlike in our country."

I immediately felt an affinity for our monarch. To be a King you must first be a gentleman. King George was certainly that. He tried his best to put me at ease by telling me different stories.

"When, Lilika, I met your father in London, I was at once reminded of our first meeting in my military tent when he came as a volunteer to fight in the wars of 1912-13. Telling me that his ship and himself were at my disposal. I was always sending him on secret missions, which he managed to complete excellently. Many times over the past few years we have had a cup of tea and chatted about the past, the present and how we foresee the future. Your father's wonderful gift became "The Sailors' House" was a great relief for our military here in London, where they could find a home from home."

He laughingly told me that he would be the best man at my wedding, a job he hadn't performed since before the war and hoped he would remember what to do. Our visit lasted almost two hours, and he asked me many questions about the war in Greece, questioning me about my family and telling me how well my brother had acted during the war years.

He then commanded my fiancé to try his best to bring my mother and youngest brother along with my brother's fiancée out of Greece. My fiancé assured the King he would be aboard the first available military aeroplane.

A few days before my wedding I had to put my new home, a small suite in Claridge's Hotel, in order, when I heard a knock at the door. I was arranging my wardrobe at that moment, so I answered with a pair of shoes in my hand. On opening the door, I found to my surprise, King George. He started to laugh loudly. Prince Paul had similarly loud tones, an inherited trait from their grandmother, Queen Olga, the niece of the Tsar. This characteristic is known as the "Romanoff voice".

"I am sorry to disturb you, but please put the shoes away and then come back", said the King as he handed me a small velvet box.

"This is your wedding present".

"I wanted to give you something in our national colours of blue and white. The closest thing I could find was this piece with diamonds and sapphires."

I opened it, inside was a beautiful brooch, a gift I have treasured ever since.

I was deeply touched by his kind gesture, apologising for my appearance, I thanked him for thinking of me. He was a kind man with human feelings. In spite of his strict military exterior, King George had a soft heart. When I told my fiancé about the King's appearance at our apartment door. He said:

"In side this severe man's breast beats a heart as gentle as child's."

On many occasions I saw examples of his good humour. After my wedding as we posed for a photograph, I remember the cameraman saying:

"Please, Mr. King, smile a little, say cheese!"

When my husband tried to correct him for his breach of protocol, the King intervened and smiling, replied "I hope you are satisfied, now".

My wedding took place at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Bayswater, and the reception was held at Claridge's Hotel. I was so unbelievably

happy that I couldn't understand how my life had changed from the sombre days of the past to the brightness of the present. Would my new life be enlightened as it was at that moment, or would the darkness of the past continue to haunt me.

I was interested to read in the newspapers on the following day, that I had been described as a prisoner of the Gestapo, who had tried to escape three times. Complimentary, but yet untrue. I had never been a prisoner of the Gestapo, and had tried once and failed to escape, but was successful on the second attempt. The King requested that we had these inaccuracies corrected by the Press. I asked that the report remain, so I could later show it to my children, and the King jokingly demurred to my wish.

The Court of King George was composed of very earnest personalities, such as Political advisors P. Pipinelis, R. Rosseti and D. Levidis, mature men who had led impeccable lives. The younger members were T. Kontomichalos and my husband, Sophocles, both very handsome, nicknamed "the Greek Apollos". There were only two ladies in that Court. Mrs. Rosseti, a lady of a certain age, whose daughter, later became Princess Loubanov, was my bridesmaid, and myself. Like everyone else we had to live very strictly and respected the rules that governed the Royal Court. Claridge's at that time, served as the guest base for the Allied heads of state in exile. The hotel had been reorganised to play host to VIPs. Dignitaries, such as King Peter of Yugoslavia, the young King of Iraq, Dean Acheson and others comprised the distinguished guest list. Frequently we would all meet in each other suites to talk about our countries and the problems they faced at that moment and the difficulties foreseen for the future. One afternoon King Peter of Yugoslavia invited me for a drive. I joined a nervous King Peter and his wife Queen Alexandra, who thanked me for accompanying them. During the drive he told me that Mihailovich, the pro-royalist conservative leader in their country had been assassinated. This meant that Marshal Tito and the Communists would seize power, whilst the pro-royalist army would be massacred along with dissenters in the civil population.

King George VI was Peter's godfather, and so I suggested that the Yugoslav King go and see the British King and beseech him to intervene on his behalf. King Peter told me that he had been asking to see the King since the previous day, but the British monarch had refused to grant the interview; rumours suggested that the British Government had instructed the King not to see King Peter. What was worse the King's passport had been altered. He was now plain Mr. Karageorgevich! The charming Regent of Iraq was very pro-British, and looked forward to returning to Iraq with his nephew, the young King Faisal, quite unaware of the dreadful fate in store for them.

After the downfall of King Peter, we all wondered what was in store for our King! Pregnant with my daughter I visited my father and told him about King Peter, and my own worries about our future. As a result he took me to a house in Landsdowne

Road in Kensington. He gave me the house as a present, and told me to go off and choose furniture with which to fill it. Furnishing the house was my only source of relaxation at the time. Although my prayer was to see my King return to his native Greece. My father told me whatever happened, I had been through enough, and now had a beautiful house in London, and had no need to return home. I later asked my husband to resign his post on the return of the King to Greece. I really could not at the time face another ordeal in the hands of the Communists who had promised us "The Third Round". My husband told me that he would return to Greece as he was a soldier of the country and his King, and as his legal wife it was my duty to follow him. Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden could often be seen mingling among the residents of Claridge's. The Duchess of Kent was also a regular visitor, and could be seen lunching with her cousin, King George and with us.

On May 8th 1945, like people all over the world, we celebrated the Allied Victory in Europe. There was great excitement in the hotel as all these statesmen prepared for the big V.E. Day parade. Tsaldaris, the Prime Minister of Greece, Field Marshal Alexander Papagos, the men who had led the victory over the Italians were both there.

The two ladies were to watch the parade from a room in Buckingham Palace. However, as others were excluded, we decided to go as a group to a friend's flat in the West End. We watched and waved the Greek flag from the balcony. Below the streets were thronged with crowds cheering and waving their respective flags, French, Dutch, Belgian and American.... When our King and his officers paraded with the other Allies, we were all moved to join this international chorus of joy.

A big lunch followed at the Hotel, with all the Greek delegation present. It was a cheerful day, where we all toasted.... "Long live the King!", and thanked them for all their efforts in leading the Country to Victory.

Claridge's, the King's Headquarters was full of Greek visitors all patiently awaiting the results of the plebiscite, which took place in September 1946. In the meantime the Queen Mother of Rumania and Princess Irene, Duchess of Aosta visited their brother the King, as well as Princess Frederica and Prince Paul. We all had long conversations about our various countries and the events of the past. Princess Irene told us how she was taken prisoner by the Germans. Frederica recalled our talk about Venizelos' presence at that lunch in Alexandria. Eleni, Queen Mother of Rumania and Princess Irene echoed Frederica's sentiments, and that now we all had to stand united. Following their advice I became a close friend of Venizelos and his family, with whom I grew very fond. I was pleased to see my son grow friendly with his grandson in a lasting friendship.

The plebiscite under Allied supervision, took place on Sunday 1st September,

1946. The whole Greek community gathered in our Hotel, anxiously awaiting the result. We all went in and out of the telex room, searching for news. By midnight most of the results were in. Sixty-eight per cent were in favour of the return of the King. We all cheered and offered the King our heartfelt best wishes. The King accepted our good wishes with the serious face of a responsible general, knowing what was expected of him. The battle was not yet over.

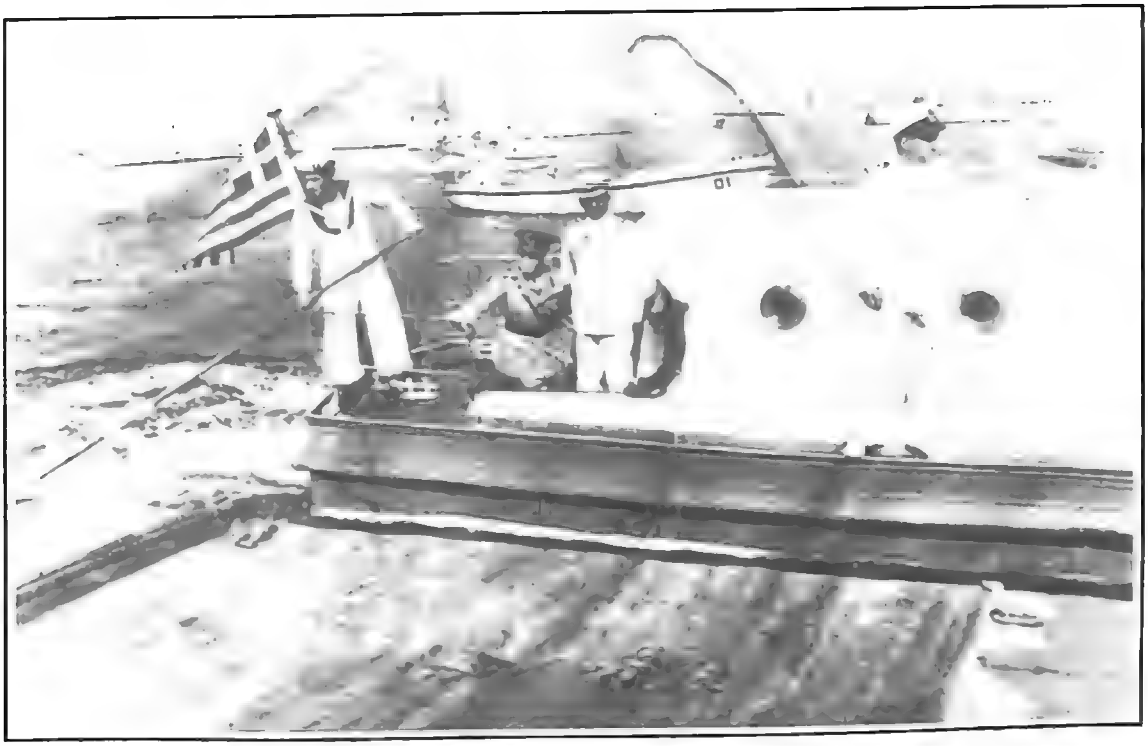
I was too young to understand the implication of these events. The only thing I knew was that a dream had come true. I do know that I drank several glasses of champagne that night. It dawned on me that the Greek people now realised who the real patriots were. I was carrying my first baby and knew that better days lay ahead for the child. The party broke up at 3 am, we were all too excited to sleep that night.

The month of September was taken up with various preparations for the King's come-back. My husband told me to remain in London until after the birth of our child, he then promised to return to take me back to Greece. My dear friend Loula Nomikos did not want to leave me alone in Claridges and came to stay with me.

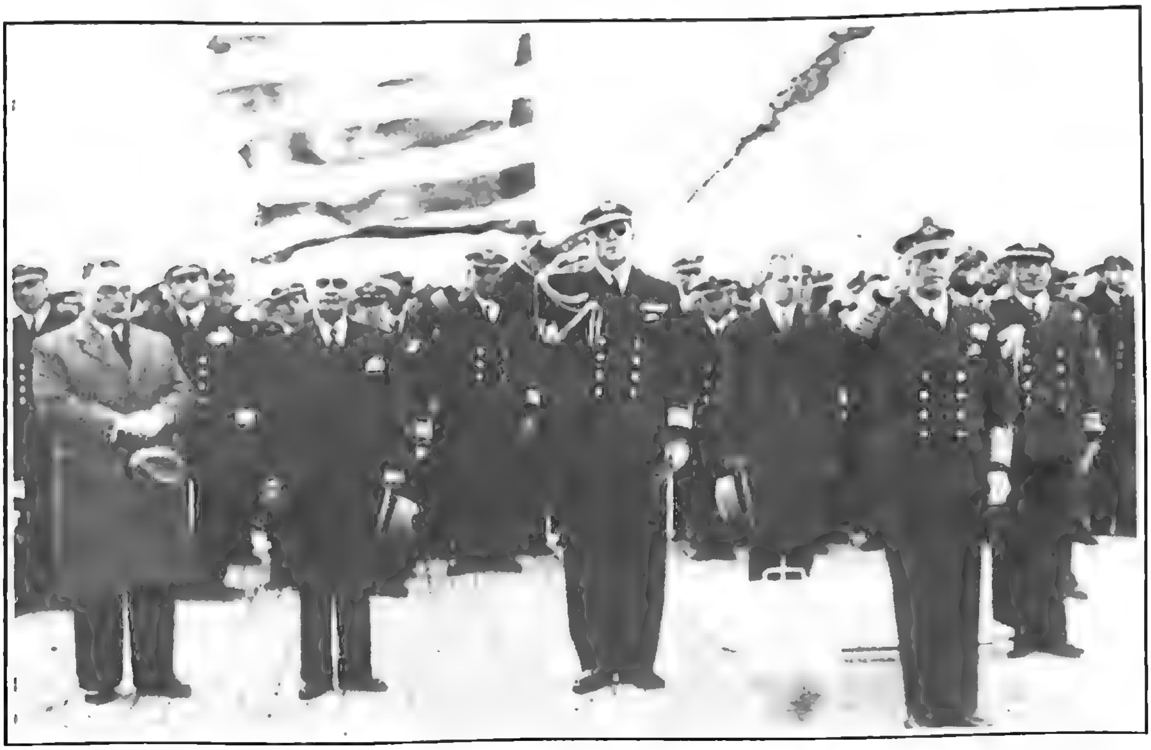
Early in the morning on Thursday September 26th, all the members of the Greek Royal Court were ready to accompany the King back to Athens. Three of us were to remain behind. These were the King's sister, Princess Katherine, Mrs. Rosetti and myself. My husband and Tony Rontomichalos, dressed in military uniform as they were captains in the Greek Army and Major Dimitris Levidis, along with the two civilians Pipinelis and Rossetti all met in the hotel lobby. King George was the last to arrive wearing battledress and carrying his pack. He looked serious but peaceful, with the dignity of a general going about his duty. We all kissed one another, but I have to say none of us was smiling and none were very happy. We prayed that God would watch over them. I was fully aware of the political and military dangers of their flight to Greece. A few days earlier an aeroplane carrying the President of the Polish Government along with his ministers had gone down and all the occupants had been killed. In our mind, we also knew that the struggle for freedom in my country was not yet over. Before leaving England the King addressed a farewell message to the British people, I will quote it in full from the original draft, because it captures the mood of the time.

"It is nearly five years since the end of 1941, when I set foot on British soil after the vicissitudes of war had driven me from my beloved country. Since than I have continued to enjoy the hospitality of the British people and of successive British Governments. I have lived in your midst in time of great stress, to share in your joys and sorrows, and to pray for the day of your final victory which would also be the day of the liberation of my country.

As London's guest through the years of the what I have learned to admire the greatest ordeal the inhabitants of this ancient capital have ever had to face in the



King George VI returns to Greece, 1946.



King George with Crown Prince Paul on board the *Averoff* at Salamis in December, 1946.



King George II with Princess Frederica on the day of his return.

course of their long and glorious history. Despite all your suffering, everyone has gone about his daily tasks with admirable courage and calm and in a good temper. It has been my privilege to get to know in Greece, in the Middle East and here in England many of your gallant soldiers, sailors and airmen, and it has always given me special pleasure to meet again those who were our comrades-in-arms in the darkest moments of the struggle.

At this moment of leaving British soil, I go back to my country at my people's call. I wish in saying good-bye, to express to the British people and to the British Government my warmest thanks for all the kindness and hospitality shown to me throughout my stay here."

That day, all our friends joined us in our Hotel to keep us company especially as I was expecting a baby due at the end of October. My father and my mother didn't come as they didn't want to pass on to me their anxiety. Everyone started telling jokes to deflect my worries, but I have to say that I could not help wondering whether my child would have a father. My friends prevented me from going to look for news on the telex. Finally, at approximately at 5.45 pm Mr. Vantine, the manager of Claridges told Princess Katherine and myself to come and take a look at the telex, announcing the arrival of the King's aeroplane in Athens. I seldom cry, but at that moment my agony exploded in tears on hearing the news. Amazingly I had not cried at all during that time fearing the worst. It was ironic my tears should flow when I heard the best.

The London Times of Friday 27th September, 1946 reported "That on the previous day King George set foot on Greek soil. He was met by the Minister of War Mr. Mavromichalis and Mr. Theotokis, and the Minister of Public Order. A little later they were joined by the Regent Archbishop, Damaskinos and the Prime Minister Tsaldaris. The King and his Court spent the night aboard the Greek destroyer "Miaoulis", which arrived at Eleusis Bay with Crown Prince Paul and Princess Frederica aboard. The destroyer had brought them to Greece form Egypt so that they could be part of the King's formal entry into Athens. As the destroyer sailed into Saronikos Bay, it was joined by two other ships as official escorts."

My husband described to me in emotional terms the scene aboard the ship as they moved towards the coast at Phaliron. The people welcomed the King and the return of the monarchy with great relief. After six years of slaughter misery and hunger, his return meant that stability and better times were ahead. The Royal entourage disembarked at Phaliron amid the peeling of church bells and the booming of cannons that could be heard from Lykabettos. From there, they drove to Athens with a guard of honour that included a British detachment. My husband recalls scenes of unbelievable emotion, people kneeling in the streets and making the sign of the cross in gratitude to God that they had returned to Athens. The entourage moved on

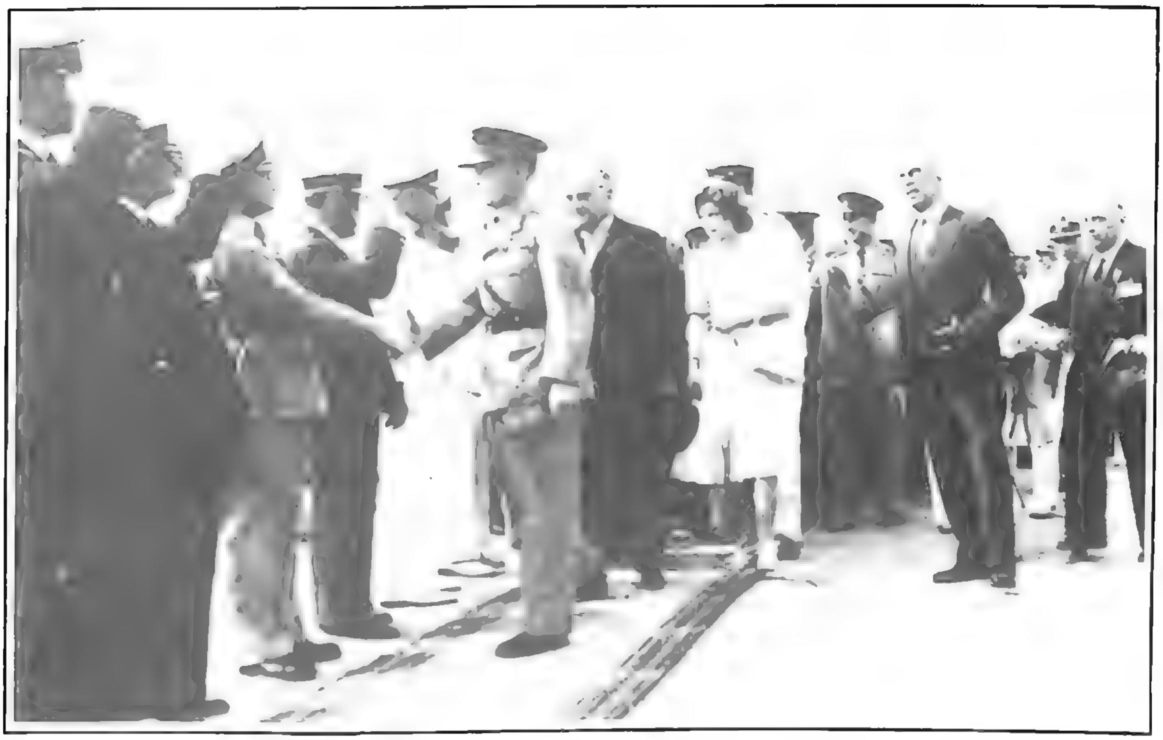
to Athens Cathedral where the Royal Guards, cheering war veterans, islanders in traditional costumes and a large joyful crowd was waiting for them. There they were joined by the Regent, Archbishop Damaskinos,[4] who was accompanied by members of the Holy Synod, the Prime Minister with his Cabinet, the British and American Ambassadors and Ambassadors of many other Nations. The Crowd were cheering and shouting "Zito o Vassileus" ("Long live the King"). Inside the Cathedral the two old Princesses kissed the King with tears flowing down their cheeks. Princess Helen, mother of the Duchess of Kent, and Princess Alice, mother of Prince Philip. Both overjoyed to see the royal family once again after so many years. A "Te Deum" was sung and a brief service followed.

Afterwards, the King accompanied by members of the royal family and the Government laid wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier". The King took the salute from in front of the House of Parliament there followed parade led by the "Evzones" of the Royal Guard, resplendent in their white kilts and velvet gilded jackets. Young men nearly two metres in height, who towered above the crowds resembling the statues of ancient Greece. They were followed by the troops of "The Sacred Regiment" (Ieros Lohos), the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the war wounded, representatives of the resistance organisations, army nurses, and deputies from the provinces. Overhead flew the Air Force.

The excited crowds were waving the Greek flag with the emblem of the cross and the crown, singing the National Anthem and different patriotic war songs followed the parade. Friends of mine who were there later told me that the peaceful and composed faces of the royal family overwhelmed them with happiness, because they felt the country would now return to peace, and that everyone had a part to play in the reconstruction of Greece. The King accompanied by the Crown Prince and Crown Princess entered the Ceremonial Room of the House of Parliament, and there received the credentials of the diplomatic corps. The Soviet Ambassador, Tito's Ambassador from Yugoslavia and the Bulgarian Ambassador although having received invitations did not attend these formal celebrations. A clear indication that they did not consider the King's return a positive event in their plans for Greece.

In his radio broadcast to the nation the King emphasised the need for national unity in light of the critical political situation. He also made clear his determination that he would respect absolutely the democratic rights of all nations and their constitutional institutions. His aim would be to work for unity and democracy.

Later as had been planned, the Government resigned as a constitutional courtesy, and was reappointed by the King after a matter of a few hours. Some days later the King asked my husband for his appraisal of the condition of the country. My husband reported the roads were damaged, homes were destroyed and hospitals were unusable.



King George II accompanied by Prince Paul, Princess Frederica and Prime Minister C. Tsaldaris, on his return to Greece.



King George II arrives in Athens.

The King looked my husband in the eye and said that all this would be rebuilt in a better way than before: "But my great concern is the spirit of our people. This has been tortured, we must find a way to bring peace back into everyone's mind."

Crown Prince Paul and Princess Frederica were back in their home in Psychiko, the house had been occupied during the war by the Italian Governor, a lot of furniture and paintings were missing. The remaining pieces of furniture were broken and the house in a poor condition. They were so delighted to be back home that they didn't at first notice all the damage to the place. The condition of the house was the least of their problems. Frederica was christened a Protestant and she did not want to convert until she had the time to study the Greek Orthodox religion. Whilst in South Africa she studied the subject in great depth, now she was back in Greece she was ready to be baptised in her new faith. On October 20th 1946, Princess Frederica fulfilled a desire that had occupied her thoughts for a long time, deciding to be fully Greek, she at last embraced the Orthodox Church. In a ceremony that took place in her home in Psychiko. Later she told how happy she was and that she felt she had done her duty towards her husband, her country and her children: "I was brought up in a religious house and God granted me the happiness to have a religious husband. I always think of that Sunday of October 20th as one of the most important days of my life."

The Princess started decorating her house in preparation for the return of her three children.

In December 1946 my husband came to London to collect me and our new born daughter, along with the King's lady friend Mrs. Joy Britain-Jones who was to return with us. Unfortunately she could not travel at that moment. I was delighted to see my husband, so we left London and travelled by train from Victoria to Dover and then to Calais and then to Marseilles in a ramshackle train, from where we boarded a small passenger vessel which had recently served as a troopship, every comfort was forgotten on this journey.

We had to reach the port of Piraeus, through a Mediterranean where mines were adrift. This time I was more anxious because my husband and my baby were with me. To my enormous surprise, whilst crossing from Dover to Calais, my husband suffering from seasickness, showed me a sealed hat box. Inside were the crown jewels of Greece. King George had asked him to return the crown jewellery which had been stored in a London Bank during the war years. Worse was that my nanny was also prostrated by the roughness of the sea. I was left alone to look after them both as well as my baby and the crown jewels! I asked the steward if he had a box, telling him that I wanted a container for my daughter's dirty nappies. He brought a cardboard carton, inscribed with the word "Peas". I put the jewels in it and covered them with my baby's nappies. Disguised in this way nobody paid my luggage any attention during our long trip back to Greece. I put the load in our compartment on the train, and then

transferred it to the boat in Marseilles. When I told my husband what was in the carton he laughed, thoroughly enjoying the comedy of the box of peas. The voyage from Marseilles to Piraeus took two days, and again the sea was incredibly rough. My husband and nanny again were hopelessly seasick. In that sorry state we arrived in Piraeus, my husband, my nanny and my beloved Marie Hélène. Officials were waiting for us, among them was the Royal Treasurer and three policemen from the Palace dressed in civilian clothes. I tell that tale because it was quite funny. The steward was an ex-seaman on one of my father's ships, and did all he could to be helpful during the voyage, offering on many occasions to wash the dirty nappies heaped in the cardboard box; I had to deter him. When we reached Piraeus he threatened to throw the box overboard. I was terrified visualising the crown jewels of Greece nestling on the seabed, yelling for the policemen to stop him. When they had retrieved the box they asked me what to do with it. I handed it to them, saying that there were the crown jewels of Greece, and would they please take charge of them as they made me very nervous.

I arrived in our flat in Athens, which had been put into good order by my husband. So very happily I started living my own life in my own home.

Greece was still in a state of war and anarchy. Although the Government and its allies had stabilised the situation in Athens the rest of the country was still under the terror and control of the guerrilla bands of "EAM" and "ELAS". The Soviets with assistance from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria were preparing for a long war in northern Greece. Everyone was expecting the "Third Round", a battle the Soviets now wanted to win especially the propaganda fight in the Western Press. Acts of violence were blamed on the right wing. The Athenian daily newspapers reported terrorist attacks on villages and towns throughout the Country. King George and his Government struggled to prevent Greece from joining the other nations that had lost their freedom behind the "Iron Curtain". Every Greek was looking towards the Crown for stability and leadership. In the midst of this turmoil, on Tuesday 1st April 1947 at two in the afternoon the King's butler phoned us at home, asking urgently for my husband. Half an hour later my husband called me from the Palace and told me that the King was dead! I couldn't believe my ears! The news spread quickly around Athens, and friends called me every few moments for confirmation. When my husband arrived home that evening he was desperate. He told me that he found the King lying on a sofa, with his sister, Katherine trying frantically to unsuccessfully revive him. Dr. Anastassopoulos arrived, but late. The King was already dead from a heart attack, brought on by natural causes aggravated by strain.

Prince Paul and Princess Frederica were summoned from their house in Psychiko while they were having lunch. The loss of King George, brought sadness back to the people.

NOTES

1. Lord Moran: "The Struggle for Survival".
2. How Greece was saved. "POS ESOPHI I ELLAS—December 1994"
3. Thrasyvoulos Tsakalotos. "Forty Years A Greek Soldier. Memoir: How we Won the Struggle 1940-49".
4. When the Germans invaded Greece, Archbishop Chrysanthos was dismissed, and replaced by Archbishop Damaskinos. Certainly this was approved by the Ecclesiastical Synod. However, when the pro-German Government of General Tsolakoglou took office, it was sworn in by the Archbishop.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Monarchy's Battle for Stability and Reconstruction: 1947-1957

THIS IS VICTORY

When you are forgotten or disregarded or intentionally annulled and you smile, feeling an internal pride at the insult ...

This is Victory

When your kindness is slandered, when your wishes are strained, your elegance is offended, your advice is rejected, your opinion is ridiculed, and you accept it all with a silent patience....

This is Victory

When you are satisfied with every food, every clothing, every climate, every company, every solitude, every suspension....

This is Victory

When you endure every disorder, every anomaly, every adversity, in time and space, every inconvenience....

This is Victory

When you can confront, every empty illogical foolishness, every insensitive thought, and you endure all of these as Jesus has....

This is Victory

When you do not like to boast, or enumerate your good achievements, or to seek persistent praise, if you really like to be unknown....

This is Victory.

[signed] George II

These verses written in his own hand were found among the dead King's personal papers. I believe they illustrate his great and heroic spirit. Above all, I will always remember King George for his strength of character and humanity. I will also remember him because he was a symbol of hope during some of Greece's darkest days. He will forever be remembered by all those who love and cherish freedom.

On the day of his death we were called to the Palace. The members of the Court, the Prime Minister and most of the Government's Ministers all gathered in the Throne Room. Princess Frederica and the few ladies of the Court, dressed in black stood on the balcony overlooking the chamber. Prince Paul was accompanied by Archbishop Damiskinos. He then took the oath which was to make him King.

"I swear in the name of the Holy, Consubtantial and Indivisible Trinity to protect the established religion of the Hellenes, to guard the Constitution and the Laws of the Greek Nation, and to preserve and defend the national independence and territorial integrity of the Greek State."

This having been done, the voice of the Prime Minister rang out: "The King is dead. Long live King Paul the First!" We all echoed the cry: "Long Live King Paul!"

The new King's first task was to tell the nation of George's death:

"It is with heavy heart that I announce to you the untimely death of my beloved brother, our King, George II. He leaves the world with a clear conscience that there was no sacrifice he did not make in the service of his country. Called upon today to continue his work, I declare myself ready to devote all the strength of my soul to the good of the nation."[1]

King Paul and Queen Frederica were torn by conflicting emotions at that moment. King Paul mourned the death of his kinsman who had died so tragically young, but he had now to face the enormous responsibility of inheriting the Crown at a critical moment in history. Greece was at war, and the Government really only had effective control of Athens, Thessalonike and one or two other cities. The rest of the Country was firmly under Communist rule. Later, Queen Frederica recalled how both she and her husband felt at the time of their succession:

"Certainly it did not make us happy. It was pathetic. Only when the personal feelings had gone, one felt that one now had to get going." When on another occasion, she was asked what were her first impressions of her new role, she replied:

"At the actual moment you don't think of that, you don't think of how a position affects you because you only think of the human tragedy. Until that passes you adapt yourself but it took a very long time for Palo and me..."



Athens, 6 April 1947 – the Funeral Cortege of King George II.



Athens, 6 April 1947 – Evzones of the Palace Guard kiss the ikon on the bier of the late King.

The new King began his duties after he had spent an hour praying beside his brother's coffin. Then he received Prime Minister Maximos and expressed the family's wish that no wreathes should be sent by mourners. Those who wanted to send flowers should send the equivalent cost in money to the "National Fund for War Victims". The gesture was in keeping with the late King's reputation for Christian charity and understanding. As is the case in these circumstances cables of condolence from leaders came in from across the world. There were also many expressions of sympathy from the royal families related to the Greek Monarchy.

The King's body lay in state in the Palace where a special "Te Deum" was sung. On arrival we saw King Paul and Queen Frederica standing beside the coffin. King Paul's demeanour had already changed, it was more serious and he seemed to have aged, faced with his new challenge. After the service the coffin was moved to Athens Cathedral where the public were free to pay their last respects. The funeral was scheduled to take place on Sunday the sixth of April.

On the day there was an atmosphere of general sadness in the Cathedral. Most of these present were sobbing, and the following procession through the streets of Athens, although conducted with official formality, was marked by the sorrow of the citizens of the city. This was particularly so when they saw King Paul and the young Prince Constantine walking beside the coffin.

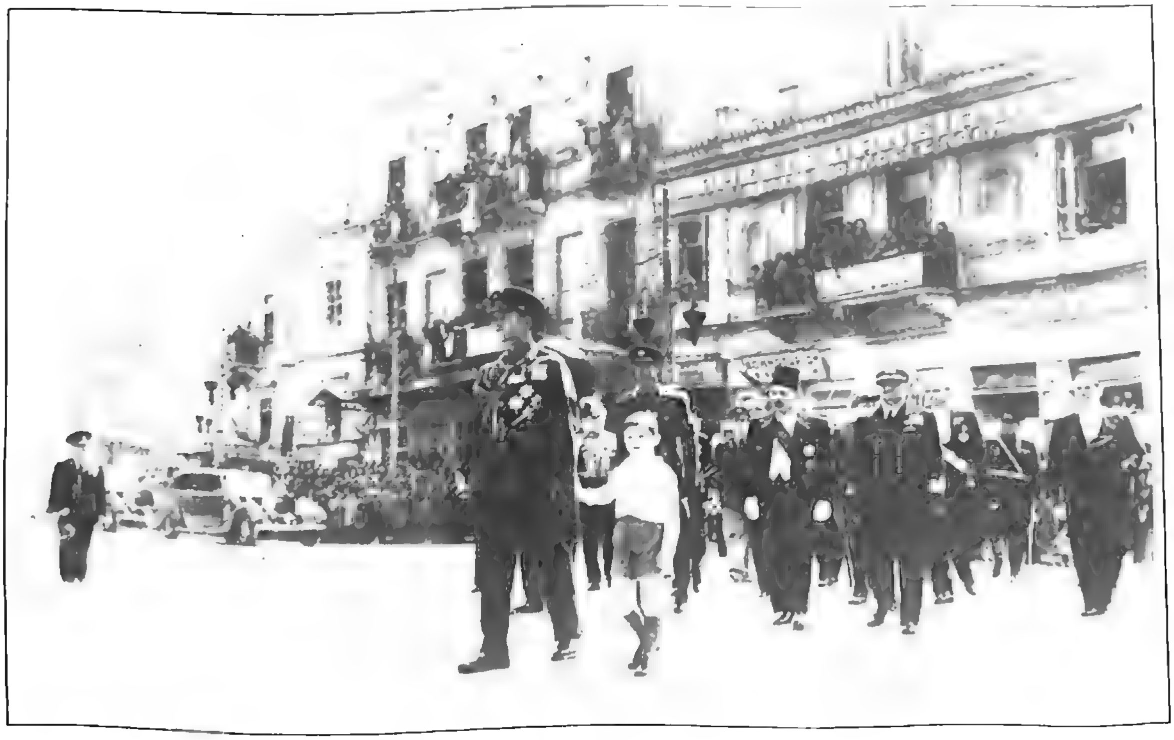
The population felt very vulnerable, but the tall figure of the new King and the relief efforts of his wife, gave them confidence that the Royal couple would fulfill their duties in a manner beneficial to the nation as a whole. The burial took place in the private property of the royal family at Tatoi. His grave lay beside those of his parents and grandparents who had given so much to the country.

There were only a few people present at the private burial ceremony. Amongst those was Joyce Britain-Jones, the King's close companion. She had not been well received by the family and certainly marriage was never a possibility. It was rumoured that King George had wanted to abdicate when the political situation quietened down in Greece, so that he could marry her and die in peace. But this was not God's will. He lived and died like the soldier he was. We saw Joyce dressed in black, her hands shaking, standing discreetly at the back of the small group gathered at the grave side. The shaking hands were the first indication of the Parkinson's disease which was to strike her down later. She stood apart from the family, overwhelmed by her loss, seeing the man she loved, buried. I felt very sorry for her, and I went over asking her to join the rest of the group, and take her rightful place beside the grave. Crying, she refused. Queen Frederica saw what was going on, and went over to Joyce putting her arms around her shoulders, guiding her to the front and they stood side by side as the King's body was laid to rest. This gesture touched us all deeply.

Today visitors can see the grave at Tatoi. His grave is marked with a plain



Athens, 6 April 1947 – Funeral of King George II.



Paul and Constantine with King Farouk behind them.

marble headstone bearing a cross. It is elegant yet simple, a fine reminder of a fine King.

After the funeral, King Paul and Queen Frederica had to face another difficult task. Greece was still under Communist control, and both of them knew that there were difficult days ahead. The rest of Europe celebrated war's end and worked to reconstruct their battered towns and cities in an atmosphere of peace and optimism about the future. Greece, though, had to face yet more strife!

The new King went straight to work, with the cooperation of Mr. Maximos he was able to form a coalition Government that was acceptable to all sides. Even those who were not well disposed towards the monarchy agreed to work with the new Government, because they had all experienced the realities of Communism. That experience illustrated what Churchill meant when he referred to communism as "a cancer, and humanity's newest and most serious illness." Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania had already caught this terrible disease. The people of these nations suffered under the determined blindness that destroyed their freedom and their heritage. The people of Greece realising that this illness was contagious united to prevent the infection of our small country.

The King's next official engagement was to make his first appearance before Parliament. As King George had died suddenly, the new King was still in a state of shock, but national obligations could not stand aside for sentimental reasons. He no longer had a brother to rely on, he was alone and his sole companion was his wife, Frederica.

April 22nd, 1947 was declared the date for the Official Opening of Parliament, and the nation was still in a state of turmoil. King Paul appeared before the members dressed in his Field Marshal's uniform, and standing beside him was his young Queen wearing a long black dress. It was a tense moment. They both wondered if Parliament would accept them, and give the new King their support.

As they entered the chamber there was thunderous applause that shook the entire building. The Speaker, Mr. Theotokis, rose to his feet and declared: "Long Live the King!", the house rose to its feet and affirmed with one voice: "Long Live the King." All members of the Greek Parliament from the Conservatives to the Social Democrats on the left, spoke as one man. Old veterans like General Plastiras, and others such as T. Sophoulis, C. Tsaldaris, Theotokis, S. Venizelos and George Papandreou were all united in welcoming the new King and his Queen, knowing that a sense of national accord was required to save Greece from becoming yet another Soviet satellite.

The King swore the traditional oath, administered by the Archbishop of Athens and Members of the Holy Synod. The King and Queen then left the Parliamentary



Athens, April 1947 – King Paul swears the Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution.

Chamber strengthened by the enthusiastic support of the representatives of the Greek people. The time had come to go to work.

The first task was to assess the damage in the Country. The only way to do this was to go out and see for themselves. They found that agriculture was in a sorry state, and that roads were impassable whilst bridges no longer stood. Thousands of people were homeless, and most of the hospitals inoperable. There had been a break down in law and order and mothers told how their children had been abducted by Communist terrorists, and boys and girls had been raped. Those who resisted these sexual attacks were either killed or sent off behind "the Iron Curtain".

Frederica climbed high into the mountains and visited isolated villages, her feet shod in boots and often bleeding and blistered. She brought with her medicines, milk and food to the people, and would often stop to talk to them. She listened to horrific tales of the women, many of them widows, whose husbands had died at the hands of the Nazis. A new expression was coined by these unfortunate souls: "My heart is black like my dress." She saw refugees flooding along the roads to escape the ruthless wrath of the Communists and flocking into Athens and Salonica.

The Government was preoccupied with its own problems, but offered the homeless and the orphans a grant of 1,000 Drachmas. A small sum, but then its own coffers were beginning to empty due to the ravages of war. The Queen saw all of this and realised that something had to be done, and quickly to help her unfortunate countrymen. A gap had to be filled to make up for the paltry sums available through the avenues of social welfare and the real cost to these people of reconstructing their lives, particularly in the Northern Provinces. So, Queen Frederica started the "Fund for the Welfare of the Northern Provinces", which later came to be known as "Their Majesties Welfare Fund. (Vassiliki Pronia)"

Before she started the fund the Queen first sought permission to make an appeal to the country, from the Archbishop, the Government, and the head of the army General Papagos. They all gave the "Fund" their blessing.

"Hellenes,

Daily, from all parts of our Northern Provinces, this National Bastion of Greece, the people are crying to us with appeals for help. The misery of the population, which I myself have seen after various visits to the region, goes beyond every description.

To the mounting ruins and the increasing number of refugees created by the war and German occupation, we have new ruins and new refugees, the numbers swelling by the day. Whole populations have been exterminated and the survivors tattered and starving are now seeking refuge in the towns of central Greece.

Men tired after years of fatigue have seen their hopes dashed to pieces by the destruction of their land. Women have lost their homes and their husbands, mourn with their babes in their arms in every corner of this region. Orphans roam the streets, seeking indiscriminate protectors. We the Hellenes must help them all.

Such misery reduces a human being to the lowest of the low. All of us who have been unscathed by this catastrophe must now come to the aid of our brothers. To supply the needs of these people, I call upon all Hellenes to help. I ask you all to help, to give to this Fund which I place under my aegis, and remind you all how easily you, too, could have been reduced to a similar plight. How then would you judge others? I do not ask you to give from your excess, but to make real sacrifices, which in themselves will be but minor inconveniences compared with the shortages that our people in the Northern Provinces are forced to undergo. By aiding the people of the North, you also help yourselves."

"In order that this fund be set up on strong foundations, I have called upon representatives from academia along with the principals responsible for our economy to meet in conference, and there draw up plans for the implementation of what I have called the fund for "The Welfare of the Northern Provinces of Greece". The success or failure of this fund lies in your hands. Help me to make it a success. The action is yours and gratitude will come to you from your own people.

Frederica
Queen of the Hellenes

Athens 5th July, 1947."

A Committee was set up to guide "The Welfare fund of Northern Greece" into action. Under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen, it comprised:

Damaskinos Archbishop of Athens, D. Maximos the Prime Minister, S. Stephanopoulos, Minister of Co-ordination, D. Helmis, Minister of Finance, M. Kotsanos, Minister of Social Welfare, K. Rodopoulos, Governor of the Northern Greek Provinces, P. Poulitsas, President of the State Council, I. Sakketas, Chief of Justice, K.Triantafyllopoulos, President of the National Academy of Athens, S. Dontas, Dean of the National University of Athens, T. Barounis, Dean of the Polytechnical University of Athens, T. Keramydas, Dean of the Athens School of Economics, G. Mantazavinos, Governor of the Bank of Greece, N. Rontiris, President of the League of Lawyers, L. Karamertzanis, President of the League of Pharmacists, G. Skiadaresis, President of the League of the Public Notaries, A. Poulopoulos, President of the Chamber of Commerce, A. Verdelis, President of the Technical Chamber of Commerce, I. Bernitsas, President of the Professional Chamber of Commerce, I. Gavalas, President of the industrial Chamber of Commerce, G. Baltatzis,

President of the National Agriculture League, N.Kraniotakis, President of the League of Pensioners, C. Katsampas, President of the League of Industry, L.Nomikos, President of the Shipbrokers League, S. Kazakos, President of the League of National Services, I. Pasatzis, President of the League of Workmen, A. Filon, President of the Greek Red Cross, Anna Triantafyllidou, President of the Ladies' Lyceum, A. Benakis, President of the Greek Scouts, Lina Papageorgiou, President of the Girl Scouts, Sophia Mavrokordatou, President of the Women's Christian Organisation, A. Valaoritis, A. Pesmazoglou, C. Arliotis, President of the Bank, E. Papadakis and B. Kyriakopoulos. Then she formed the Committee of lady volunteers, asking the most prominent ladies from impeccable backgrounds to offer their services, all of whom were only too glad to come forward. The President was Mrs. Alexandra Melas, a well known charity worker and daughter-in-law of Pavlos Melas, a distinguished officer who had been killed in the war against the Turks for the freedom of Macedonia in 1912. The Vice-President was Eleni Leloudas. Mrs Elli Zalaokosta, Miss. Kindyni, Miss Paparigopoulos, comprised the Committee. From Macedonia Mrs. Elleni Vrella, Mrs. Elleni Tari and Mrs. Angelopoulos were represented, along with Mrs. Chariklia Georgiades and myself. We were all sent to different places in Greece. I was sent to South Ipirus on the Albanian frontier.

Frederica also turned to businessmen, industrialists and Trade Unions to give money to help the needy. The businessmen agreed to donate 1% of profits from imports and exports to the fund. The profit from one cigarette in every packet was also to go to the fund. The Trade Unions clamoured for proceeds of ten cigarettes in every packet of 20 to be donated, but Frederica felt one was enough. This levy of 5% was later raised to 10% by the Ministry of Finance. The proceeds to be divided equally between the Government and the Fund. Another source of revenue was a levy of 1 Drachma on every cinema ticket bought.

Greek workers volunteered to work on one Sunday, and devote those earnings to the Charity. This raised £80.000, in spite of warning to the work-force from the Communists to ignore the Queen's pleas for aid. It seemed that the sufferings of those in the North would best serve the Communist purpose if they were allowed to continue, for would not the poor unfortunates be more easy to recruit if they were plagued by their dissatisfaction rather than succoured by a fund set up by the Queen. Instead Greeks stood together for the benefit of the nation, which had elected to remain an ally of the free West.

The lady volunteers of Queen Frederica's fund came from well to do families and comfortable homes. They now had to leave all this and follow the Queen into the dangerous northern countryside, in order to help those less fortunate than themselves. From the outset we knew that if we fell into the hands of the guerrillas, death would be far more welcome than the fate in store for us. The Queen's example, however, made us oblivious of these dangers. We were united in our joint task of saving our people and our country.

We must not forget that Frederica accompanied the King on many official visits to the front during this period, tours that took them all over Greece. Their purpose was to show that they were genuinely concerned about the people, and that the army had their full confidence and support. It is remarkable they never hesitated visiting remote villages where fighting was still raging. Photographs show them travelling to remote areas in an open car and protected only by a small escort. This shows their popularity as unlike other monarchs in other countries they never hesitated to mingle freely amongst the crowds who came to greet them.

Many children were being abducted at this time, and were sent into the countries sheltering behind "the Iron Curtain". The ever increasing danger of losing an entire generation in this manner led Frederica to expand and intensify the efforts of "The Welfare Fund" in order to save as many children as possible.

It was these inhuman acts that spurred the Queen to take unprecedented risks.

By July 30th 1947, Queen Frederica was able to open the first "Children's Town", near the northern city of Thessalonike. Some 640 lived in tents waiting for appropriate buildings to be constructed for them. During these early days, I remember listening to the report from one of the lady volunteers, telling of the dreadful conditions that existed in one of the villages that she had just visited:

"Your Majesty, I visited one of the border villages named Tsaguari Thesprotias. It is a village hanging on a crag, and even a donkey has difficulty reaching it. The situation there is tragic. No clothing, no food, no doctor, no medicines, not even a priest to bury the dead. They have suffered so much from the Germans and the guerrillas and have no communications with the outside world. If only the army could do something to send them a little help." Hearing this bleak account the Queen decided:

"I will visit this village myself very soon!" The volunteer who had just delivered her report was very shaken by this:

"For God's sake that is impossible!" The Queen quickly rejoined:

"If it was possible for you why is it impossible for me? I am young...." Before she could finish her sentence the lady volunteer brusquely cut her off:

"But your Majesty, if I die nothing will happen in our Country; but if you die the damage to all of us will be very great!"

Nevertheless, at Frederica's insistence the lady delegate organised a royal visit to the village a few days after the conversation took place. After riding on donkeys and walking for miles over the mountains, the Queen reached Tsaguari Thesprotias,

accompanied by two army officers and her lady representative. The villagers were amazed to see her, not believing that she was really the Queen. They asked for proof and asked her why she was not wearing her crown! Later in order to prove that she was indeed their Queen, and the Country had not forgotten their plight, she mailed everyone in the village an official photograph of herself with the King. She arranged with the army to link this particular village with four others so that emergency supplies and medical assistance could reach them. An order took six months to be actioned. This is only one of many examples where Queen Frederica took swift decisive action in order to alleviate suffering in Greece.

In order to contain the ever increasing Communist threat, the Minister of Defence, G. Stratos, with the consent of other members of the Government decided to exile all captured young communists on the island of Macronissos off Cape Sounion. Some of the prisoners were real Communists, whilst others had been abducted to fight for the Communists.

Reports were coming in that the Soviets were trying desperately to revive the flagging Communist rebellion, aided as before by the Yugoslavs and the Bulgarians. This was the famous and long awaited "Third Round". The King and Queen asked the Government to approve a visit to the prisoners of Macronissos. The Government gave its consent and the King was able to mingle with the prisoners and explain his point of view, telling them that Greece was a small country, but it was everyone's duty to protect the freedom of that country. The young prisoners of the island listened intently, and then all of a sudden started to cheer, and before the surprised King and his wife knew what was happening they were lifted aloft by these people and were told:

"Count us in on your National Army. We want to fight the new invaders. We do not want slavery for our Country!"

Most of the boys joined the National Army and they opposed the Communists. They had rejoined the Greece of their families and ancestors.

On August 2nd 1947, representatives of the USSR, Yugoslavia, Albania and the Greek Communists met in Bled in Yugoslavia for a military conference designed in part, to unify their policy against the interference of the American presence in Greece. It was clear that the Soviets and their Allies were determined to exploit every opportunity so that Greece fell into their camp.

Soon thereafter, the Communist leadership of the guerrilla army began a new campaign of terror designed to silence resistance among villagers in the area controlled by themselves. The flood of refugees increased as people fled to areas under Government control. The infamous "paidomazoma" or forced abduction of children continued. Hundreds of these children died on the long journey to Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Many of those who disappeared have not been seen to this day.

Queen Frederica was very much aware of the worsening situation. She called together all those involved in charitable work in Athens, and told them:

"The situation in our northern provinces is worsening every day. The number of refugees is increasing and it has now risen to ninety thousand people of which we estimate 50% are children. Children who have lost their parents in this tragic situation are roaming the streets without any form of protection. People are starving and are inadequately clothed, trying to seek shelter in the towns of our land. This is creating many housing problems. The Government is trying its best to alleviate these problems, but unfortunately its resources are insufficient. The needs are enormous, and in the general confusion created by the guerrilla war the welfare services are stretched to their limits.

I invited you here today to ask everyone of you involved in charitable organizations to help the nation assist our suffering population. Nothing must stand in the way of our objective. Even if your organisation has no direct concern with this cause, we shall ask the Ministry to waive any objections that it might have, and give you emergency permission to participate in this venture.

Perhaps, it would have been more correct to set up a separate Government organisation, but this would take time.We must act quickly. For every day we hesitate means another day of death or torment for these people. We must give to them first aid. That is why we must act swiftly.

Frederica
Queen of the Hellenes

June 20th, 1947."

After listening to this impassioned appeal all those present elected to become "missionaries" for the salvation of Greece.

It is difficult for someone today to imagine how difficult the situation was in 1947. The Communists had the support of powerful countries who continually violated the borders, in order to keep the guerrilla bands supplied with arms and manpower. The Soviets seized the opportunity, in conjunction with mercenaries in the northland ardent believers of their creed, to spread propaganda against the legitimate Government of Greece.

One of the most prominent KKK leaders, Mr. Porphyrogenis, addressing the Congress of the French Communist Party in Strasbourg, said that the political, military preconditions now existed for the proclamation of a free Democratic Government in Greece. He quite ignored the fact that democratic elections had

already taken place in the country and the people had elected a Government. His intention was obvious, however, as most of Greece now lay under enforced Communist control, any Government proposed by Mr. Porphyrogenis could only be Communist in intent, despite any wishes of the people to the contrary.

The Communist insurrection was not an internal Greek problem, but one initiated from abroad, and taking advantage of internal divisions was calculated to rob the people of Greece of their freedom. The Greek Government had no option but to appeal to the United Nations for support. On December 3rd 1946, Greece asked the UN to verify the Yugoslav, Albanian and Bulgarian incursions into its territory. The UN responded to the Greek request by sending a Commission of Investigation that conducted its inquiry between January 30th and May 23rd 1947. The investigators found substantial evidence in support of Greece's complaints, but the findings of the Commission were never endorsed because the Soviet Union exercised its right of veto. Nevertheless, the Commission remained active in Thessalonike and continued to verify Yugoslav and Bulgarian violations of Greek territorial sovereignty.

On the eve of the arrival of this fact finding mission the "Daily Telegraph", reported:

NEW CLASH ON GREEK BORDER.

Incident on eve of Enquiry in Athens.

A village in the Mount Beles area of the Greco-Yugoslav frontier was attacked by Greek guerrillas on the eve of the arrival of the United Nations sub-committee of enquiry.

When a well guarded train carrying members of the committe reached the station of Mouries last evening, Greek army mortars were still firing to clear the remnants of bandits who had raided the village the night before. The committee was to hear on the spot the testimony of a border incident of March 31, when guerrilla bands alleged to have been protected by the fire of Yugoslav outposts, withdrew into Yugoslav territory through the frontier sector off Anokouka on Mount Beles after a hard battle with Greek forces. The Soviet representative, Mr. Gasparov accepting the Yugoslav Government's assurances that the incident never occurred refused to accompany the committee. When this was made known, a Greek official said that he expected new incidents in the same area. This is the report for the council. The Greek Brigadier in command of the sector stated yesterday that some 60 bandits armed with mortars and tommy guns moved from the border line to attack Greek regular forces and after the clash retreated to the frontier. This information is confirmed by a document found on a captured bandit. The committee decided the evidence was sufficient to require a report to the Security Council on violations of the frontier, which are now taking on the dimensions of a minor battle. Evidence submitted by the Greeks showed that the Yugoslav frontier posts supplied the bandits with arms and

ammunition and covered their flanking and retreat movements by permitting them to make use of the protection of the frontier line. Fighting in the mountains still continues and will probably be intensified after night fall."

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov watched anxiously as matters unfolded in Greece. He sent a personal message to Guerrilla Captain Marco, which was later relayed to the Communist leader Zachariadis: "With the full backing of my Government, I would like to support your decision to continue fighting, right up to the Victory. We will recognize you as the official Government. I order the seizure of Konitsa. Establish it as your capital, in accordance with General Popovitz's statement. The attack on Konitsa will be made simultaneously with the support of foreign legions."

Here we are given to understand the great strategic importance of Konitsa, a small town close to the Albanian border. The Soviets had organised a union between the Greek Communists on one hand and the Bulgarians and Yugoslavs on the other for the formation of the so-called "Free Macedonian State". From where they could establish military bases and win control of the Straits of Turkey. This would help the USSR gain access to the Suez Canal and also thwart the formation of the State of Israel.

A happy event in the Royal Family provided a striking contrast to the grim battles taking place in Greece. Prince Philip, King Paul's cousin, was to marry Princess Elizabeth heir to the throne of Great Britain. King Paul was unable to attend this happy family occasion, as the he was unable to leave Greece, because of the political situation prevailing at the time. So, he asked his wife, Queen Frederica to go in his place as his personal representative. In one of the receptions she met Winston Churchill, and had an opportunity to talk to him about the political situation, particularly the shortage of arms. Churchill told her that he was out of power and could do nothing to help the Greeks. He went on to suggest that she speak to a man standing in one corner of the room. Frederica responded that she did not know the gentleman in question and asked who he was. Churchill replied that he was General Marshall, American Secretary of State, who was in London at the time to attend the "Four Powers Summit"…. Churchill promised that he would arrange a meeting, but Frederica felt she did not know how to talk to a man she she had never met. Churchill politely responded by telling her to talk to him soldier to soldier and he would understand. Churchill introduced them, and a meeting was scheduled for the next day at Claridge's Hotel.

During the meeting Frederica explained the current situation in Greece, and that the Country needed arms and ammunition to fight the war against the Communist rebels. Marshall said he would put the matter to his Government,whilst she could expect a reply in a few days.

After a brief stay away Frederica returned to Greece and recounted to the King and General Papagos the gist of her conversations in London. Papagos thanked her,

telling her that although still very young, she had not neglected the interests of her Country, even at a time of social rejoicing. Shortly afterwards an illegal Communist Government was formed,led by Ioannidis. Molotov's policy was coming into reality. The second part of the plan was to seize Konitsa and declare it as the capital of the provisional Government.The situation continued to worsen, to such an extent that the ladies of "Their Majesties Fund", were urged to carry small knives or even poison, so that they could commit suicide rather than be captured by the Communists. This was in response to propaganda circulated in the mountain villages, where the volunteers worked to help bring the children to safety.

In the meantime in Athens King Paul fell ill with typhoid fever, at the same time as the guerrillas commenced their attack on Konitsa. The morale of the people there quickly collapsed due to the onslaught. King Paul was out of danger but still very ill. Queen Frederica asked if she could visit Konitsa in the King's place, she also mentioned her plan to General Papagos, who tried to dissuade her. Early in the morning of January 7th, 1948, the Queen donned her boots and wrapped herself in a warm sheepskin coat, and travelled to Konitsa in a jeep, alone save for a soldier driver. When Brigadier Antopoulos saw her, he had the shock of his life, and when she told him that she was definitely going to save the children of Paedopolis (Children's Town), he was so touched that he agreed to accompany her into the town. On the journey she was cheered by all. On arrival in Konitsa in the middle of Communist cross-fire, she spoke to the people:

" I am here sent by my husband, who as you know is ill with typhoid fever, to bring you his warm wishes, his admiration and his gratitude to all men and women, military and civilians, alike."

The eyes of the suffering people, old men, women and children were full of tears, but what was more amazing was to see tears coming into the eyes of officers and soldiers as well. The Queen went to the Paedopolis to see what had happened to her beloved children. She entered and found to her horror the children all huddling for shelter in one room supervised by Mrs. Stephanides and Mrs. Kapanidas; with this selfless action they helped and saved their young charges whose "Town" had been the first target of Captain Marco's attack. The terrified children explained to the Queen that whilst playing outside they saw men with long beards who told all the children to be quiet. Perhaps, they wanted to kidnap these youngsters,too. The children were evacuated. Then she started visiting one house after the other, to see the wounded members of the army. Among them was General Dovas a war veteran and close family friend of the Royal Family. Lying wounded on a stretcher, he was amazed to see the Queen. On hearing that she was in the town, people began to emerge from their shelters. Frederica told everyone that it was their duty to fight and not hide themselves. Some of the military told the Queen:

" You should take your place in the golden book of Greek women's history like

Admiral Mrs. Manto Mavrogenni and Admiral Mrs. Bouboulina !" After a few days Konitsa was freed, the Communists could not stand against the bravery of the Greek Army nor the determination of Frederica.

Frederica's courageous saving of the children of Konitsa was not some vainglorious attempt to solicit support from the population, but a determined effort in the light of a very serious threat. The kidnapping of children was very much part of Communist Policy in Greece.... In fact on March 3rd, 1948, Guerrilla Radio explained that these children were being removed at the request of their families for their own safety, and that they would be able to continue their studies in "democratic" Countries.

The Greeks were naturally outraged by these activities, and everyone but the hard-core Communists demanded action. As the Communist-bloc was involved, the disappearance of the youngsters of Greece had an international significance, the Greek Government formally appealed to the United Nations Special Comittee on the BALCANS (UNSCOB) to investigate the charges.

These charges had been outlined in February 1948, in an appeal for help to secure the return of the missing young. The Greeks accused the terrorists and their Communist allies of embarking on this new form of psychological warfare to:

a) Terrorise Greek families into supporting the insurgents.
b) Educate young Greeks in Communist ideology.
c) Destroy the Greek nation by alienating its children.
d) Disrupt agricultural production by forcing families off the land and into urban areas in order to protect the young.

Evidence exists that shows that in order to complete this devastating work in the most efficient manner possible, the terrorists bands conducted a census in the area under their control in order to locate all children aged between 3 and 14.

As we have already seen Queen Frederica was very active in her concern about the plight of the unfortunate children of Greece. We saw that she opened the first of her "Children's Villages", in Oriokastron near Thessalonike in July 1947. Other homes were to follow in quick succession Ionnia, Larissa, Kavalla, Volos and of course Konitsa. When each of the "Towns" was completed the Queen went herself to open them. She would always begin her speech of inauguration in the same manner:

"Today is one of the happiest days of my life. Whoever is an orphan amongst these children, should never be made to feel it. You belong to all of us!!"

Today the modest number of original "Children's Towns" or "Paedopolis"

might not seem impressive, but if we stop for a moment and consider the conditions under which these institutions were created, we realise they were a major accomplishment. They were established during a time of great deprivation. People were starving and communications rudimentary. It was a time when the very fabric of human society lay in tatters.

The Queen's activities at Konitsa made everyone realise that she was not an empty figurehead, but a woman of action who was not afraid to share the dangers and hardships of her subjects. In response the popular press christened her "Mother of Greece". It was appropriate as she took on and came to symbolise the concern of all mothers in the world.

To her the welfare of children knew no political or social boundaries, the children of Greece represented the country's future and had to be saved no matter the cost.

The Queen's efforts on behalf of children won international recognition and on November 9th, 1948, she received the following telegram from representatives of various International Women's Organisations attached to the U.N.:

"We ask you to accept the expression of our deepest respect and admiration for your Majesty's noble attempt on behalf of the grieving Greek children. Inspired by your constant efforts the legal Committee of the General Council of the United Nations at present engaged in work relating to genocide (child murder) has adopted the phrase "forced abduction of children into a regiment" as proof of an act of genocide. The adoption of this meaning is largely due to the capabilities of the leadership of Greek representatives to our organisation. Being deeply concerned to safeguard the integrity of the family unit, we the undersigned representing various international organisations in the General Council, have decided to warmly recommend to the United Nations the immediate passing of a resolution on genocide. We can count on the support of the majority of world welfare organisations who work on behalf of women and children including that of the United Nations. We beg your Majesty to continue her wonderful efforts and in view of her many friends who possess high positions in other countries, we stress the necessity for a resolution on genocide. It would also be extremely beneficial if Your Majesty made a public announcement concerning the world wide importance of this resolution against genocide.

Yours humbly and respectfully,

Emily Green Boltz,
Nobel Prize for Peace and Chairman of the
International Women's Committee for Freedom and Peace.
Tifin Lukas of the World Council of International Women,
Paris.

Lady Marion Parmer of the World's Women Organisation for Peace, London.
Isabel de Curano of the International Welfare Committee, Paris.

Alice Lord- Parsons of the General Peace Committee, San Francisco.
Georgette Barbize of the International Women's Organisation. Paris.
Gladys Waltser of the Women's Unions of the United States, New York."

The Queen responded with the following telegram:

"To the Representatives of the International Women's Organisations.

As a mother surrounded by thousands of grieving Greek mothers whose children were torn from their arms and ended up in foreign hostile surroundings, where they were taught to hate their country, I felt deeply touched when I received the telegram composed by women leaders who represent the mothers, sisters and daughters from every part of the world.

Your message greatly encourages the agonising and sorrowing Greek Mothers as indeed it does me also, as I pursue my aim to return these children to their homes.

Among other things, the terms used by the legal committee of the General Council of the United Nations, namely "forceful deportation of children to the opposite human group", as part of the description of genocide, constitutes the abduction of Greek children from their national heritage, given that this inhuman treatment constitutes in reality the moral and ethical death of a portion of Greek youth, upon which we base our hopes for the future of our nation.

The resolution adopted with so much courage and concern for the young by various international organisations must result in a worldwide crusade to bring an ethical solution to this question. These children must be returned to their families and homeland and find salvation from a moral death.

No one is more capable of this than women, whose maternal will bestows creativity in ideas and an ethical grounding which gives the strength to achieve this. I wish your organization success as indeed I do to all the women of the world to participate in this most human crusade to return our children to their home and erease this inhuman tactic from modern day civilisation.

In October 1948 President Truman cognisant of events in Greece stated:

"If a guerrilla menace (in Greece) should increase as a result of greater outside

assistance, a new situation would be created which would have to be dealt with in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time."

On October 6th 1948 the State Department in Washington became aware that the Greeks were demanding further armaments, so at the end of October Secretary of State Marshall visited Athens.. General Van Fleet had been appointed Head of the American Military Mission to Greece in February of the same year. There were some misunderstandings between Van Fleet and the Greeks, regarding realms of responsibility. Although Van Fleet appeared satisfied with the set-up in existence at the time, it was felt by some that the Commander in Chief of the Greek Army should take full responsibility for military matters in the country. In her letter to Marshall on 5th April 1948, Frederica suggested.... "General Papagos, our C-in-C during the Albanian campaign, would be the right person at this critical moment, as he combines high integrity of character and great prestige in the Army."[2] The matter was clarified during Marshall's visit to Greece at the end of October 1948, and with the monarchy's full support, Marshal Alexander Papagos, was put in overall command of the armed forces in January 1949.

Notwithstanding General Van Fleet was an excellent choice for the important work that had ,to be done in Greece, He was a contemporary of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Omar Bradley having being a class mate of theirs at the U.S. Military Academy of West Point. They all graduated together in 1915. During the Allied Invasion of Normandy in June 1944, Van Fleet was colonel commanding the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division commanded by Raymond Barton. He landed on D-Day with amphibious forces at Utah Beach.

Van Fleet fought heroically in Normandy and was responsible for the taking of the towns of Les Forges and Ste. Mère-Eglise.

After the invasion of Normandy, he was again promoted to Brigadier General and commanded the 90th Infantry Division with distinction. In March 1945 he again received a battlefield promotion to Major General and was appointed Commander of the 3rd Corps, comprising four divisions. During March 1945 the 3rd Corps spearheaded the Allied bridgehead at Remagen, and thus opened the corridor across the Rhine and into the industrial heart of Germany. In April 1945 Van Fleet in conjunction with Generals Anderson and Ridgeway, attacked and defeated the German Army in the Ruhr. The collapse of the Ruhr front spelled the doom of the Third Reich, as it was thus deprived of its industrial capacity and so lost its ability to wage war.

It is therefore not surprising that when General Marshall cast about for someone to act as Greece's top military advisor he should settle upon Van Fleet. In fact there was no better man to judge the mettle of another military man than George Marshall, himself. He had been made chief of staff of the US Army on September 1st. The day Germany invaded Poland, an event that quickly plunged Europe in the Second World

War, although America itself did not become an active participant until after the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941. Marshall resigned as Chief of Staff in 1945 and after a foray into diplomacy in the Far East was appointed Secretary of State in the Truman Administration in January 1947.

It was on June 5th 1947 that General Marshall whilst speaking at Harvard University, unveiled his famous "Marshall Plan". This was later translated into the European Recovery Programme. Greece was most certainly included in this strategy. There was now understanding amongst the Allies and with their help Greece managed to fight and win a war against the encroachment of Communism.

American Aid was very necessary for Greece, but it did not preclude the Greek charities from continuing with their work, and constantly seeking new sources of finance. Meanwhile the United Nations published its recommendations on 11/11/1948 and followed up "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 11/12/1948."

The text read as follows:

"Greece is the victim of the most heinous crime against human and divine law: the abduction of children by foreign inspired and supported bandits in the two meanings of the word: firstly, that of members of guerrilla bands; secondly that of outlaws who have added to every form of outrage against persons and property that of conniving in exile from their country some 30,000 children snatched from the arms of their parents.

This crime has been fully ascertained by the Balkan Commission in its special report of the 21st May 1948 to its principals- the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The report stresses the fact that these abductions are part of a concerted design:

a) To terrorise the Greek families into giving their support to the communists;
b) To imbue the children with Communist ideology;
c) To destroy the Greek race, to dislocate agricultural production by forcing families to abandon their fields and seek safety for their children in towns.

This crime has been the object of a Recommendation by the United Nations' (llth November 1948, General Assembly, 1st Commission) recommending "the return to Greece of the Greek children presently abducted from their homes, when **these children, their father and mother, or in their absence, their nearest relative express their will to this effect."**

............................"

"Greece survived the abduction of many of her male children and their forced

conversion to Islamism to form the corps of "Janissaries" or praetorian guard of the Sultans. "........................."

"The inviolability of the family is therefore the basic cell of international order of which the U.N. have instituted themselves guides and guardians. It is with much reason indeed that this close relationship between the family and international order is reflected in the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", as passed and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the U.N. on December 10 1948, and in the elaboration of which Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, took such a prominent part.

"This Declaration contains at least 5 Articles indirectly or directly related with the sacredness of the family so abominably desecrated by the mass abduction of Greek children ...."

"Art.9 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Art.16-3 The family is the natural fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by Society and the State.

Art.22 Everyone...is entitled to...economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Art.26 Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Art.28 Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised."

This Declaration is indeed the moral charter of the United Nations ..."

"In this respect it is a cause - of optimistic solace that, notwithstanding all the other harassing problems of the day and the present confusion of moral values, public opinion of the most civilised countries has availed itself of the typical occasion offered by the abduction of Greek children to claim that this most detestable infringement of the moral rules formulated by the U.N. be the object of immediate redress or otherwise be the forerunner to effective sanctions.

The National Council of Norwegian ladies requested Mr. Trygve Lie to bring the question before the Assembly of the U.N. In the minutes of the meeting it was declared that the "abduction of children is the shame of our times".

The General Federation Women's Clubs of the U.S.A. requested the U.N. to settle the question of the abduction of Greek children.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of American Working Women of Elisabethtown, Pennsylvania, sent Mr. Trygve Lie a copy of their protest against the abduction of children and requested the U.N. to take the matter in hand.

"The Secretary of the Committee of Dutch Ladies, Mrs Vanden telegraphed to Mr. Trygve Lie to the effect that the U.N. "Should act until a manner is found for the return of abducted Greek children to their homes and country ..."

"At its meeting in Geneva in July 1948, the International Union of Family Organisations, with 50 members present and representing 20 countries, voted a solemn condemnation "of all attempts against the family (abduction of children, rape of women, etc) as part of international differences and insists on full respect for the dignity, unity and good conditions of family life and of the child."

It is indeed at the request of the President of the International Council of Women, Mrs. Jeanne Eder of Zurich, of Mrs. Rena Giraud, Vice-President of this Council and of Lady Nunburnholme, Vice-President of the British National Council of Women, that par. 3 was added to Art. 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the purpose that it should help in the matter of having the Greek children returned to their homes and parents.

The National Council of Switzerland approached the International Red Cross on the subject and pleaded directly for the return of the children.

These few activities, protests and requests, chosen at random from hundreds of others, are enough to make clear that public opinion of civilised nations stands behind any effective action that the U.N. might decide to take on the strength of their "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man."

"The abduction of Greek children and the Greek people."

But there is also another side to the question. It is closely connected with the assistance given to Greece under the aegis of the U.N. by the U.S.A. and Great Britain either directly or under the Marshall Plan. If effective action were not taken within a reasonable time limit, this assistance would to some extent be jeopardised. Without local knowledge and experience it is indeed difficult to gauge the wide bearing of the abduction of children on the rehabilitation of the country.

Greece is a geographical peculiarity. Her territory constitutes an inverted triangle, of which the apex points south, with two sides bordering the Aegean and Ionian seas and the basis stretching East-West for some 600 miles. Everything affecting the borderland affects the whole more generally than it would in other countries with a less peculiar geographical formation.

This borderland is also the richest agricultural area in Greece. Anything disturbing its economic structure is of paramount importance in the economic situation of the whole. Of some 8,000,000 Greeks living in Greece, some 2,000,000 reside in this borderland. Of these, and owing to the abduction of children, 700,000 or 8% of the

entire population have had to flee from their homesteads and farms to seek security in towns further South. Now the regular army has partly restored order in this sector with the exception of an area of some 25 miles in length with an average depth of 3 to 4 miles, still occupied by the guerrilla bandits. The maintenance of these refugees, even at a very low standard of living, constitutes a crippling drain on the State's finances, as also the absence of the refugees from their work on the land, causes great damage to the economy of the country. It is urgent that they should be induced to return in all reasonable haste to their homes. But it is a matter of serious doubt that they will be able to resume their occupations as long as the security of their children, and themselves, is not definitively and internationally guaranteed. Pending this international assurance of some form of durable security, it cannot be expected that they will work effectively. They will always be on the alert....

Under such conditions, agricultural production can only be precarious and scanty. The first prerequisite of agriculture is security of family life, agriculture being essentially a family concern in which the psychological factor is even more important than the physical. It would be of little use to help these despondent destitutes to rebuild their farms, to provide them with agricultural implements, without also providing them with the very essence of family life: freedom from fear, most particularly regarding the safety of their children.

It should be understood by those in the Councils of the world representing countries that have known many horrors of war and civil strife, but have been spared the devilish designs of Communist totalitarianism.... Northern Greece has developed a psychosis of exasperation. Here people remember that even Hitlerism during the Nazi occupation of the country, and notwithstanding its considered policy of terrorism, did not think of abducting the children of Greece to rob them of their nationality and teach them Nazi ideology whilst abroad.

The abduction of these 30,000 children and the inability of the powers of the world to obtain their return is indeed a moral cancer undermining the faith of the country in international order......

... Because circumstances in Greece are indeed most difficult. The children victims of the guerrilla war imposed on Greece by her northern neighbours in conspiracy with a few misled Greeks is only the climax in horror of the war imposed on Greece. This war must be won, and to win it the youth of military age, on whom production mostly depends must be kept under arms; in the State Budget, military expenditure, on and above Allied aid, and in particular American, must take precedence over every other; daily destruction ... of everything serving the country's industrial infrastructure, has developed a feeling of uncertainty, deterring from long term investment the small amounts of private capital still available.

It is in this atmosphere of economic depression that funds must be raised for

imperatively urgent welfare activities, and in order to raise this money appeals must be made to a population that has lived for eight years in the throes of war....

That these funds are readily and regularly forthcoming is indeed a fine example of altruism.... In the circumstances that the Greeks still have to face, they would be justified in crying S.O.S., but instead they think only of their abducted children and cry S.T.S. (Save Their Souls)!

This is the deeper meaning and explanation of what has been described in the previous pages. It is also the explanation of the Queen's popularity. By making herself the "Mother of all Greek Children", children who have been orphaned or need more than their impoverished parents can afford, through whom, the Queen has gained the respect and recognition from the people.

Queens or wives of heads of State are generally given the title of "The First Lady" of their respective countries. The Queen of Greece has worked to deserve, and has indeed been granted the title of the "First Mother of Greece". And in Greece the accolade of "Mother" has ever been considered the mark of the highest respect."

Here is what Mr. C.L. Sulzberger wrote in the New York Times of 21st June 1948. He is describing the "Children's City" of Kastri-Kifissia, near Athens.

"The Kifissia Centre used to be a summer resort hotel ... there are 593 children in the Kifissia Centre, which is directed by the remarkable Anna Stephanides, 31, who was in charge of the children's home in Konitsa, during the battle and rebel siege last winter. The guerrilla lines reached to 50 yards from her building.... During the fighting she made them (the children) lie on the floor, while bullets whistled through the walls. None of the 230 was hurt. We watched the children attend a flag lowering ceremony in the evening and shout in unison: "We are Greeks". They filed in to a simple supper, first standing to hear a little boy recite an Orthodox Grace. As the spoons began to clatter, a woman member of the supervising Committee turned and said: "If only we could bring back their kidnapped brothers and sisters from the North."

It is hard to imagine that this battle for the children of Greece was inspired by a young woman of 30, the Queen of the Hellenes. They say there is no-one more devout than a convert. This can be adapted a little to say that there was nobody more Greek than the German Princess, Frederica, who had gone on to become Queen of Greece. She had been greatly influenced by Greek philosophy, and would have understood only too well, the speech of Alexander the Great, himself influenced by his famous teacher, Aristotle.

Oration delivered by Alexander The Great at Opy in the year 234 B.C. During

a Symposium, in attendance were 9,000 officers; among them Greeks, Persians, Medians and most certainly Indians.

"Now that the wars are over, I wish you peace and happiness. May all mortals from now on live as one nation for their common improvement. Consider the Universe your Country as with laws common to all, governed by the best,regardless of race. Unlike the narrow minded: I do not divide men into Greeks and Barbarians, I am not interested in the origin of the citizen nor the race of which he was born. My one and only measure is virtue. To me any good foreigner is a Greek (Ellin), and any bad Greek Barbarian.

If you ever run into adversity or dispute, do not resort to arms but solve your differences peacefully. If necessary I shall be your arbitrator.

Do not consider God as an authoritative Governor, but as the mutual father of us all and your behaviour should be that of a familiar brotherhood. I myself consider all men equal, be they white or black. I would like you, not only to be citizens of my Commonwealth but also partners and associates;

I promise to do my utmost for the realisation of this wish. This oath is given tonight with liability.

I want you to keep forever as a token symbol of love.

Alexander the Great
King of the Hellenes."

What better symbol of our love than to cast aside the wars and battles that beset twentieth century Greece, and work towards a just and lasting peace. Frederica had certainly been working for the good of humanity as she struggled to save and succour the children of Greece through the part she played in the inception of "Their Majesties Welfare Fund".

This speech of this young but great Alexander took 2000 years to come into realisation, and today a small town called Skopia in Yugoslavia, wants to take the emblems of the Kings of the Hellenes and adopt the name "Macedonia. Who are these people of Skopia? What is the language they speak? What is their history? Can they tell us ?

What about the people in Albania and the other Balkans? What about Constantinople (Istanbul)? The first and largest church in Christendom, St. Sophia, is now a museum. Can they tell me officially why this is so, and whether there is

another Church of a living religion which has been requisitioned to make a museum?

The thoughts of the philosopher Anaxagoras come to mind:... "Beyond every phenomenon is the unseen."

Every "Paedopolis" (Children's Town) was inspected by representatives of the International Red Cross. Without exception, these representatives came away impressed by the quality of medical care, schooling and above all, love that these children received. Trauma and malnutrition were the two biggest problems besetting the youngsters. It was particularly touching to see the effect the Queen had upon them when she visited these towns. The children spontaneously surrounded her and fell into her arms in a fond hug, whilst crying tears of relief and joy.

All the pain and suffering that had been witnessed by the Queen, took a tremendous emotional toll. The communist atrocities in Naoussa and Karpenisi in particular had been vividly etched in her memory. As a result, early in 1949 she fell prone to uncontrollable bouts of crying. Like some of our soldiers who had experienced so much death and savagery, Frederica found herself suffering from battle fatigue. The King tried to help by sending her to visit relatives in other parts of Europe, but she found herself unable to stay away for long, and always cut her visits abroad short.

On 24th of August 1947, the Maximos Coalition Government collapsed, following the resignation of several of its members who were unable to agree on a Cabinet re-shuffle. So, King Paul was faced with his first political crisis. He handled the problem with tact and extreme diplomacy. He personally invited all Party Leaders to the Palace. They went under the misapprehension that they had been summoned to a private meeting. However, instead they found themselves all forgathered in the "Audience Chamber". The King addressed them all, and explained that the difficulties faced by the Country made it necessary for all politicians to set aside their differences, and join together to form a united coalition Government. He then asked them if they were prepared to do this.

He left them alone, telling them that once they had reached an accord to call him, assuring them that any decision reached by them would be supported by the Crown. An hour later he was called back, Tsaldaris the Populist leader told the King that he was fully prepared to stand-aside and allow Sophoulis the Liberal Leader of the Opposition, to take on the premiership, and was prepared to serve as his deputy. On 5th of September 1947 a Liberal-Populist Coalition was sworn in with Sophoulis as Prime-Minister and Tsaldaris as Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister. Tsaldaris' selfless action was considered as an act of great patriotism by the electorate. Later Sophoulis was to emerge as a distinguished statesman. With the King's help the Country now had a strong Government, capable of facing the communist threat, and uniting the Country in time of crisis.

General Van Fleet and the American Military Mission was delighted, because they made no secret oh the fact that they needed a broadly based Government as soon as practicable in order to administer the massive aid programme promised to Greece under the "Marshall Plan". Within two weeks of the formation of the new Government, the Americans had approved plans for the strengthening of the Army, which was to increase to a size of 200,000. 150,000 of which was to be made up of regulars and 50,000 from the National Guard, who were specially trained and equipped to fight the Communist insurgents. All necessary material and equipment would be supplied by the Americans.

The Darkest hour is before the Dawn.

The Allies decided the time for the union of the Dodecanese Islands with Greece, had come. This was one of King George II's demands during the war. The second was the return of North Epirus, now part of modern Albania. This latter promise had been reneged upon due to the mutiny of Greek Forces in 1943. The 7th of March, 1948 was the date fixed for the official union of the twelve islands with Greece.

After the fall of the Byzantine Empire during the Turkish Wars, Rhodes, the administrative centre of the Dodecanese, surrendered to the Ottoman Empire after much fighting. So in 1522-23, the Turks occupied the islands. As the centuries rolled by, the Greeks preserved their religion and clung to their strong traditions. The islanders never lost sight of their heritage; a similar situation exists in modern day Cyprus. In 1922 the Italo-Turkish conflict erupted, and the resultant Treaty of Lausanne in June 1923, ceded the islands to the Italians. At the end of the Second World War, King George asked for the islands to be returned to Greece. The Allies agreed to his request, and so the official return occurred in March 1948.

At 7.30am two Allied Naval vessels steamed into the port of Rhodes, one was the USS Hanson and the other His Majesty's Ship "Sevio" of the British Royal Navy. They were present to represent their respective governments and to honour the celebration of the union. Rhodes was a blaze of lights, throughout the night people caroused enjoying a huge party to which all were welcome. At 8am the Allied warships were followed into port by two ships of the Royal Greek Navy, the "Themistocles" accompanied by the "Astix". The Greek flag proudly flying from their mastheads. The sight of the Greek flag brought loud cheering from the assembled crowd, who immediately burst into the strains of "The National Anthem." The Mayor of Rhodes, Mr. Chari, came forward to welcome the King and Queen and the three Royal children. The Royal Party was accompanied by members of the Government. The moment King Paul and Queen Frederica stepped ashore, loud cheers echoed around the quayside. The National Anthem was sung and people began to cross themselves. Sobs interrupted by cheers and applause made this a very emotional moment for the people of Rhodes.

The Greek vice-premier and Foreign Minister, Constantine Tsaldaris, stepped forward and said that their Majesties' presence showed the realization of the unification of the Dodecanese islands with "Mother Greece". The Mayor of Rhodes replied by saying:

"No human words can express my joy and deep respect of your Majesties, as well as that of the people of Rhodes and the Dodecanese. I think of you as the successor of the Byzantine throne, and remember at this moment, King George whose spirit has aided you. With great joy I give you the key to the Dodecanese and urge you to continue this triumph with others that are to come. Long Live Hellas ! Long Live their Majesties! Long Live the Dodecanese!"

It was now the King's turn to speak:

"This is the happiest day of my life. On this sacred day, I thank God who has given me this honour. The Dodecanese have always been a shining star in the Greek sky, from the days of our ancient ancestors right up until the time of Christian Byzantium, these islands have always taken part in the struggles for the freedom of Greece.[3]....

My thoughts go out to he who is absent on this wonderful day, King George II ... the victor of the Albanian (Italian) War.... In the name of the rights sacred to man, ... in the name of Greek History, and in the name of God ... I declare the Union of the Dodecanese with Mother Greece."

The last to speak was Father Timotheos, Bishop of Rhodes, who said:

"After six centuries of oppression you, my King, come as an angel from Christ's grave to preach the sermon of the resurrection, Christos Anesti (Christ has risen!) ... You are the symbol of the Hellenic ideal, a symbol of the Orthodox faith, you are the sacred arch who kept the testament of our national aspirations as our ancestors instructed us to do, by fighting the battle well and keeping the faith. This long road has reached its end and now the crown of justice belongs to us."

The Dodecanese chain comprises 12 islands, they are: Kalimnos, Rasos, Kos, Chalki, Leros, Lipsos, Nyssiros, Patmos, Piscopi, Karpathos, Symi, Astypalea and Rhodes, the capital. Now that all these islands were part of Greece, it was the intention of the King and Queen to visit them all. Their intention was to salute their new found citizens and to speak to the people at close quarters in order to discuss their aspirations and problems. The Government sanctioned a private visit, and they set off on an unofficial tour.

Paul and Frederica were interested to visit the islands and see the birthplaces of a host of personalities who had played important roles in the history of Greece. Rhodes was the place of Diagoras's birth; he and his three sons, Akousilaos, Damagetos

and Dorieus were champion athletes who had won a plethora of golden crowns at the Olympic Games in Olympia. Kos was the home of Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine. Symi was host to an outstanding theological school, which turned out fine churchmen in spite of the dark years of Turkish occupation. Patmos is the "holy island", the hiding place of Saint John the Divine, after his escape from the Romans. During his stay on Patmos there was an earthquake, and part of the wall of the cave in which he was sheltering collapsed. It was through this gap that his visions were revealed, and with the help of the young Prochoros,he wrote them down to create "The Book of the Apocalypse". Every island has a history, and has played its part in the evolution of Greek culture.

Whilst the Royal party travelled from island to island, the germ of an idea began to take shape in Frederica's mind, which she felt would prove useful in her work for the children of the nation. She was curious to know why old ladies of the Dodecanese did not speak Turkish or Italian and wondered how they had communicated among themselves during the long period of foreign occupation. The ladies told her that they had all been required to learn Greek. She then asked the villagers whom she met on her tour, if they would be willing to agree to the establishment of a new Children's town in their area. Everywhere the overwhelming answer was "yes". The islanders were Greek and it was their duty to help others, no matter where they were in the country.

On the way back to Athens, the Royal couple stopped off in Leros, where she saw a building which she felt would be perfect for the site of her new venture.

On her return to Athens she called her Committee of Lady Volunteers together and asked them to investigate the possibility of building a Pediopolis on Leros. Everyone supported the idea and a "Children's Town" was created.

About the same time as her Leros idea started to become a reality, the Queen visited the Children's Prison in the Athens suburb of Kiffisia. Children accused of petty crimes, such as theft were sent to this detention centre. The atmosphere of the place was both unhealthy and inappropriate. Frederica, left with the impression that if the inmates were not hardened criminals when they began their sentences at Kifissia, they most certainly would be when the time came for their release. She requested the transfer of the young convicts to a better environment, which would give them the opportunity to improve themselves and become useful members of Greek society. Leros was the ideal place for them. Thus the so-called school of Leros came into being, in which children from all over Greece came to study.

The people of Rhodes had offered a Palace to serve as the King's residence in the region, however, the venture proved too expensive to implement, but nonetheless, the King and Queen were very fond of the island.

Sadly the idyll of Rhodes and the Dodecanese lasted only a few days. The

danger from the north was still very real, and the King and Queen had more sombre duties to perform. On October 9th 1949, the 6th Plenum of the Communist Party, sent a message once more threatening the nation:

"The Monarco-Fascists will be mistaken if they think the struggle has ended."

The guerrilla war continued and the Communist outrages were reaching their zenith. Nicholas Cage in his book "Eleni" which was later made into a film, portrays those anguished days and the ensuing suffering.

Outrages that alienated many of the Communists guerrillas themselves, who recoiled in horror from the atrocities taking place around them. George Manoukas, was General Inspector in charge of the abduction of children. Here was a man who honestly believed that the kidnapping of children was for their own benefit. Later he abandoned his post in ... "indignation over the anti-hellenic (anti-patriotic) stance of the Communists". In his book *Children's Abduction: the Great Crime of our Race:* he tells of this terrible attitude. I will quote a brief fragment from this work:

".... In the beginning of April 1948, I was with the guerrillas in the village of Yianochori outside Kastoria. I received an urgent message to appear at the Communist headquarters in Livadopti. So I went and appeared before the Communist guerrilla governor. He told me that since I was a specialist on the children's camps, he wanted me to listen to the interrogation of some vagabonds who had recently escaped from Albania. Nearby stood four boys of between ten to twelve years old. They had been abducted from the villages of Nestorio, Agia A ... and Ftelia. Because of their torment, terror and hunger they shrunk into a corner afraid of the Communist menace.

As the popular communist tribunal began, the eldest of them who was twelve years old, narrated the facts: "When the guerrillas entered our village they abducted us and brought us to the Albanian frontier. The Albanian soldiers turned their guns on us, so we started running and hiding ourselves in the woods. There we were caught by a Greek Communist guerrilla guard and an Albanian officer who told us that the gunshots had been a mistake. Now you go to Konitza and you will amuse yourselves. When we arrived, we had no bread, no food, and we were left in some freezing tents. So we decided to escape and go back to our homes. When we arrived tired and exhausted on Greek soil, these comrades imprisoned us again !"

After the child's narration, I angrily asked the official what he wanted me to do. The governor replied that he just wanted me and the Communist administration to see the nonsense they were perpitrating, and to understand that if these children had fallen into the hands of the Greek army, to imagine the damage the story would have done to the Party once it had reached the villages."

This is only one of Manoukas's stories, but it was incidents such as this that caused the idealist Communist to renounce his ideals, and instead to espouse democracy.

The second excerpt from the Pronia Archives is by Dominic Ocklair a Red Cross Inspector. This account was written in 1949:

" .... No human being can imagine what happened here up in the village of Tsamandas and to its neighbouring villages. We were met by women dressed in black in front of burned and ruined houses, who looked like statues out of a Greek tragedy. Silently they stared at us, as we rode by in our car which flew a Red Cross flag. Suddenly, a deep lament full of sorrow reached us - "our daughters! Our children!" They cried as all of these women stood up and ran to us. As if in a monologue each one said - "She was only eighteen years old ... they took her ... my husband was killed by the Germans .... The Communists beat me and I thought to save my daughter who was sleeping ... my heart is black like my dress...."

... Another woman stood up, she was not even forty years old - "I had three daughters, aged fifteen, seventeen and nineteen. They took them out of their beds and put guns to their heads. I ran behind them and our feet were blistering on the rocks. I screamed, I cried, I prayed, but these sons of the devil, pulled my daughters away and abducted them. They were crying, and begged for help, but who could help them? Listening, another mother sat in a corner speechless with tears of silence running from her eyes. I asked her ... "Yes! someone has seen my daughter buried in the snow. The criminals, the Communists took her she was pregnant, she preferred to die rather than come back in shame."

Greece's Armed forces were put under the overall command of a supreme commander, Papagos, who was both popular and experienced. This unified Greece and strengthened its military. Disunity, however, weakened the Communist aggressor. A political rift between Stalin and Tito sealed the fate of the insurgents fighting for the Communist cause. This rift led to Tito closing the Yugoslav border in July 1949 and his decision to stop the supply of arms and aid to the guerrillas.

Albania and Bulgaria, however, continued to provide support, but it was becoming clear to the guerrillas that they could no longer rely on their Soviet allies for aid. The final crunch came in August 1949. The site of the battle was Grammos, the Communist stronghold high in the mountains close to the Albanian border. King Paul along with General Van Fleet and senior American and British officers appeared at the front on August 23rd, and were conducted the next day to General Tsakalatos's observation post west of Nestoria, where on August 24th at 2100hrs, the King himself gave the formal order for the attack to commence. At 1215hrs on the 25th, Tsakalotos turned to the King and reported:

"Your Majesty, Grammos has fallen. You can start your return journey whenever you decide."[4]

The War was over. The country could celebrate and draw breath once again. The Greeks along with their British and American allies had by defeating the Communist insurgents, contained the expansionist aims of the Soviet Union.

The Greek Army continued its mopping up operations, and had completely wiped out all resistance in the Vitsi and Grammos mountain strongholds. Although the Greek countryside continued to be dangerous for a long time after the summer of 1949, organised fighting by Zachariadis's rebel army was finally over.

Heinous crimes continued to come to light after open hostilities had ceased. In Meligala in the Peloponnese, thousands of bodies from the intellectual segment of the local population, were found stuffed into the corpse of a huge whale (the Pigada of Meligala).

Queen Frederica had played a central political role during this desperate time. She never adopted a neutral stance when she felt the good of the Nation was at stake. Her charm and diplomacy were helpful to her husband when he had to mollify anti-royalist politicians who were traditional enemies of the Royal Family.

Her relationship with Themistoclis Sophoulis, the elderly statesman who was Prime Minister for much of this time is a case in point. Although an anti-royalist for most of his political career, Frederica appealed to his patriotism and won him over in the name of national unity. Their friendship and understanding helped preserve the fragile coalition Government during those critical days. All the veteran politicians were fond of the Queen and respected her intelligence and wit. This was undoubtedly true, too, of the Military leaders who recognised that her outspoken personality was matched by the courage she had shown by visiting the battle zones with the minimum of personal protection. Above all the Queen stood for and represented, unity.If she appeared high-handed at times, it was because she believed with all her heart in the justice of her cause, putting what she felt was the good of the country above the narrow sectarian interests of both the Monarchy and the Government.

In 1985, during a visit to Greece, I was invited by the lady delegates of Her Majesty's Fund to attend a luncheon in the Vice-President's home. The President, Mrs Alexandra Melas was already dead. Mrs. Leloudas the Vice-President had been awarded the Medal of Merit for her services, by the Academy of Athens.

During the lunch she told me that someone must write a book about Frederica's Life, and felt I was the one for the job. Laughingly, I insisted I was not a writer. She then took me to a small room, explaining that it contained the Archives of Her Majesty's Fund, and it would be a great pity if the material remained unpublished,

and a new generation remained unaware of the fine work done by the Queen. I told her, that I too, had in my possession all Frederica's private papers along with the material provided by Hourmouzios. Although we had the necessary information to write a book, I felt it would better if we employed a professional writer to undertake the task. The ladies disagreed, feeling that I would do the work better justice because I had personal experience of the time. My husband had worked for the Palace and I knew the Queen personally. The ladies promised me all their help if I went ahead. Afterwards I spoke to my husband about the suggestion, and he also promised full support and cooperation.

The ladies sent me some of the letters from the Archives recounting their own experiences. The first was from Eleni Leloudas, herself:

"The battle of the war was won and the Greek people stood proudly beside the Allies, rejoicing at the achievements of their Army and the heroic stance of the population joined together by the desire to uphold its independence and its freedom. Unfortunately, even before the rejoicing died down, even before the Victory parades ended, even before we were fully conscious of our regained freedom, there took place the Communist bloodshed. This plunged our capital into slaughter and much grief. A great deal has been written on this sad and dreadful subject, thus we will not elaborate on it here.

It would have been wonderful for our sorely tried country to have been able to check the Communist onslaught. A short time elapsed before the Communists threw the Varkissa agreement in the waste paper bin, took up arms like the enemies of the fatherland and heaped so many dreadful deads on our nation that one can tremble at the thought.

Almost three years passed, we were able to defeat the resident enemy but what horrors they left behind them in our country, burned villages, raped women, abducted children and many other unmentionable crimes.

The nation did not know which way to turn. One portion was dark and dangerous, one full of doubt and misgivings. We had to restore internal peace at all costs. This desperately needed peace, this end to internecine strife, this heavy difficult task, this, too, was undertaken by our King and Queen.

They appealed to their people to join forces with them in order to achieve this. The appeal was a triumph. The whole nation responded as one, rich and poor, nurses, boy scouts, doctors and workmen. The most touching response to this appeal came from the workmen, who donated one day's wages to enhance the fund. A whole nation worked feverishly towards this end. Everyone was invited to join Their Majesties in this task. The Queen founded an appeal committee under her patronage, inviting chosen members of the community under the chairmanship of Archbishop

Damiskinos. The founding of this committee whose aim was to collect money for the devastated Northern Provinces was truly a miraculous achievement.

Mrs Elli Zalokosta wrote the following report:

"The Presence of the Sovereign Amongst her Suffering People:

I do no not like to mention all our work, which was devoted to God and the Country. I will not speak of the dangers we were going through, especially the nights when we crossed the mountains of Grammos and Vitsi to save the children from Communist abduction. We did not know if the rebels were hiding behind the bushes to ambush us. The loudspeakers were continually telling us that if we were caught we would first be tortured and then killed. I do not want to speak of their political matters.

When Queen Frederica called us, we were all working as volunteers in different charities, or the Red Cross. After giving us the basic facts, which were:

6,982 plundered villages
4,247 killed
28,000 abducted children
703,000 refugees.

The Queen then urged us to:

"Come on, let's see what we can do for these people. I'm willing to lead this campaign. I will appeal to the people and I am sure that all the Greeks will identify with our feelings and will then help their brothers who are in danger."

These were her first words to the lady volunteers who had come to work with her. On 4th June, 1947, she called all the lady delegates to a conference and then again on June 11th, where we exchanged opinions and shared information. In the meantime the Queen was getting matters under way. The Government had its own financial problems and felt it could not afford to help the charitable organisations. All their resources were channelled to pay for the forthcoming war with the guerrillas. This disappointed the ladies, because they could see the urgent needs of the people. Every day children were being abducted by the Communists whilst others were dying from a multitude of different diseases. We were desperately frustrated, faced by all this misery and yet unable to help. Then the Queen called us together again and told us not to be disappointed, we would continue to struggle to help the children and the villages."

"The work of reconstruction which in such a loving way, had been undertaken by the Greek people, was undermined by the Anarchist Guerrillas and new ruins began to accumulate.

The most important task was to rescue the damaged people from the rebels. Thousands of people, including women and children were looking for refuge in the nearest free towns. They were in poverty, faced with scarcity suffering from depression and plagued by illness. Hiding themselves in the woods and in caves in the mountains as they escaped from their villages and away from the Communists bands. Young girls who had been raped hid in caves to give birth to their illegitimate babies in order to escape the shame they would feel if they returned to their villages. The flow of refugees hindered the movement of the Army, and put the accomplishments of the military in jeopardy.

Queen Frederica was a pioneer in helping bring a semblance of order to this tragedy. She beseeched all to assist, and many times she put herself in grave danger as she entered battlefields, dodged bullets and traversed minefields.

On the 8th, January 1947 whilst still Crown Princess, she made a tour of the Northern Provinces in order to gauge for herself the damage inflicted by the Axis occupation. She went to Kavalla, Drama, Alexandropoulis, Gianina, Konitsa, Messalogi, the list is endless. I often accompanied Queen Frederica on these visits. I was particularly impressed by her long memory concerning the people we met. In fact many times she caused me to remember details of our work that I had forgotten. She remembered people's names. People offered her small gifts, such as apples and oranges, urging her to eat so she would be refreshed. Many children came up to her. I remember one who had bred a little lamb as a special present for the Queen. This queen and her activities will forever live in my memory, and she is a fine a example for young people everywhere."

Elli Zalokosta, a beautiful woman from a good family was decorated for her bravery in this war.

Many times whilst travelling to inspect the "Children's Homes" on the Albanian frontier, I would come across the Queen, dressed in boots and a raincoat in winter, and a cool blouse in the summer. As she visited the villages, and called the villagers by name. I recall Frederica sitting on the doorstep of a village house, surrounded by the women, who were telling her of their problems big and small alike, and asking her advice. In front of her was a plate of dried bean soup, eating like one of the country folk she invited me to join her and share in her simple meal. The queen urged me eat every scrap as the housewife in question was an excellent cook. After we separated I went to see another "Children's Home" and the Queen continued her visit to the area. The simple country people loved her deeply and felt she was one of them.

One of our fellow delegates was from Macedonia, coming from a place where tradition dictated that women follow the Army as determined by Alexander the Great.The traditional costume of women from this region is a knee length skirt and headscarf, reminiscent of the General's own helmet. Young girls wear a white rose,

married women a red rose and the widows a black one. Elleni Vrella had received so many war decorations we nicknamed her Montgomery a stark contrast to the beautiful poetry she used to write.

"Not being an author it is difficult for me, perhaps, impossible, to describe Queen Frederica. This talented person full of spiritual riches and human love, which she directed towards all children, has deeply touched my Greek soul.

During those tragic times of war, Nazi Occupation and Communist slaughter, we Greek women, although already involved in charity work, felt an overwhelming need to concentrate our efforts in order to help our nation in its darkest hour. Our guiding light, our organiser who gave us strong enthusiastic inspiration appeared in the shape of Queen Frederica. It was her kindly spirit, her endless strength and courage that guided us towards our path of duty and achievement."

Elleni Vrella continued:

"It was perfectly natural for all of us to work and save our children. How often I remember Queen Frederica in her thick winter clothes, kneeling on the ground to put shoes and clothing on small children, trying to dress them with love and understanding.

I remember in Thessalonike, in a suburb named Toumba which had been taken by the Communists, and renamed by them Stalinopoliis (Stalingrad). It was a very risky area and was off limits to government soldiers and civilians alike. Whilst visiting Thessalonike, Queen Frederica learned that there were children in Toumba who needed medical treatment along with food and clothing. She asked for a jeep and supplies and insisted in going into Toumba to help the children there. The Chief of Police at first refused to allow her to take such a great risk, but she insisted. She found a soldier to escort us and the three of us entered the Communist stronghold. When the inhabitants saw us they closed their shutters and locked the doors of their houses, too frightened to come out and speak to us. She stood outside and shouted to them:

"I have not come to persuade you to change your political affiliations, but only to bring milk, food and medicine to your children. If you have old and sick people I would like to help them, too. Please send someone out to collect the supplies we have brought and then I shall leave!"

To our surprise the closed windows and doors opened and the people came out of their houses to greet us. The Queen herself distributed milk, medicine and other supplies. When the time came for us to leave the people invited us to return and help them once again.

To our great surprise, over a period of time an understanding developed between

the Queen and the women of Stanlinopolis. Whenever she was in Thessalonike she would visit them and take them much needed supplies. On subsequent visits I began to notice an astonishing phenomenon. In the windows of their homes many of these women placed a photograph of the Queen alongside the posters of Stalin and Zachariades (leader of the Greek Communist Party). Queen Frederica always believed in the purity and basic goodness of the Greek character. She never altered her attitude towards all her people."

Elleni Vrella went on to say:

"I remember in peacetime how anxious she was when she discovered that there where no lavatories in many of the village houses. She immediately set up a committee to look into the matter and it was brought up at the next meeting of Welfare Fund.... Through her efforts money was raised to build lavatories throughout rural Greece. Priority was given to homes where children and old people lived. I personally was sent to some of the villages to check on the programme. I remember one Sunday arriving in a village, it was just after Church Mass. The villagers were sitting in the Churchyard when we arrived. When they saw us they smilingly said ... "God Bless you lady delegates. Every morning the entire village remembers you!"

Now that I look back on the past, into this particular period of our lives, I am proud of my Greek heritage and the role that we women played.

I remember on 26th December 1948, the B Congress of The International Democratic Women's Organisations, took place in Budapest. Surprising to hear was the voice of the Swiss lady delegate, who spoke out on the problems facing Greece.

"The abduction of children was carried out systematically and methodically in order to create a mercenary army of the future, that would be used to further Soviet expansion and influence in Greece."

The Communists delegates complained about this speech and the Swiss walked out of the Conference and returned home.

Newspapers such as "Le Matin" in Lausanne on February 2nd, 1950, "Le Rhone" on 13th May, 1950 and "Le Monde" in Paris, along with many others criticised the abduction of children from Greece. Whilst in Stockholm, "The General Congress of the International Society for the Protection of Children", universally condemned the kidnapping of children in the country and asked the United Nations to take positive action to remedy the problem."

Mrs Vrella concluded by saying:

"Her behaviour towards her husband as Queen and wife was as admirable as

was her motherly devotion to her children. It is tragic to think she should be slandered by traitors and criminals. I am sure that King Paul and Queen Frederica's memory is rooted forever in the hearts of every Greek who is proud of his culture, no matter what his creed may be.

I am more than happy to have been able to express my feelings as I think the younger generation needs to learn of her inspired leadership on every level.

The principal aim of our generation was to keep our country free and proud. This Greece was given to us. Apart from the exception of a few foreign holidays, I have never lived abroad and cannot know how other nationalities see their leaders or their royal families.

We the Greeks through our long civilisation want our leaders to be part of our lives. Greek women have always stood loyally beside their men, right through history. We all know that there have been women admirals as recently as within the last 100 years. People like Admiral Manto Mavrogenni and Bouboulina.

Queen Frederica was one of us. We wore similar boots and walked along the same muddy paths, and threaded our way carefully through the same minefields. Greek women humped ammunition on their backs and carried them to their men fighting against the Nazis and the Soviets. So this Queen was one of us. Long live her memory and let her life be an example to the wives of our new leaders."

In October 1949, I had a telephone call from my brother in London telling me that mother was unwell. I flew to London, and a fortnight later returned home. On my return my husband told me that he had invited the King and Queen along with Field Marshsll A. Papagos and his wife Chansonette, to our house for dinner on the following evening. Before dinner I was asked how my mother was, and I was happy to tell them that she was much better. Papagos then asked me if I had brought any news from London. I told him that some of the newspapers reported that "the civil war in Greece was now over."

Although Papagos was a gentleman, I saw all of a sudden that he was cross with me, and I did not understand why. "Civil War!" he exclaimed ... "When have we had Civil War in our country? Can you tell me what a Civil War is?" It was the first time I saw that polite gentleman so annoyed. I apologised explaining that I was merely quoting from the British press. "Let us take European History. Do you know the history of Cromwell and the English Civil War in the seventeenth Century? What about the French Revolution in 1789, or the Russian Civil War in 1918?" Exploded Papagos. King Paul seeing that Papagos was a little upset, asked me to follow Alecko's (Papagos's) reasoning. This calmed the General down, and he explained that in the revolutionary civil wars the regiments of the National Army ceded from their allegiance to Governmental authority joining the revolutionaries. Thus they

served a new flag. Thirdly, no foreign power sided with the revolutionaries at the time of outbreak. When did regiments of our army join the revolutionaries? When was our flag replaced by another? Truman and Churchill called this a guerrilla war, and so did the United Nations along with the Red Cross. Simply, we had a guerrilla war."

NOTES

1. Hourmouzios, "No Ordinary Crown" page 185.
2. See letters between Queen Frederica to general Marshall. April 5th 1948.
3. During the War Years many of the islanders of the Dodecanese escaped the Italian Occupation and enlisted in the Greek Fighting Forces.
4. Please refer to the correspondence between Queen Frederica and General George Marshall: 29/1/1949, 12/3/1949, 29/8/1949, 23/12/1949.

CHAPTER SIX

Peace comes to Greece

Ω ΠΑΤΕΡ ΗΜΕΤΕΡΕ ΚΡΟΝΙΔΗ: ΥΠΑΤΕ
ΚΡΕΙΟΝΤΩΝ, ΕΙΠΕ ΜΟΙ ΕΙΡΟΜΕΝΗ, ΤΙ ΝΥ ΤΟΙ
ΝΟΟΣ ΕΝΔΟΘΙ ΚΕΥΘΕΙ; Η ΠΡΟΤΕΡΩ ΠΟΛΕΜΟΝ
ΤΕ ΚΑΚΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΦΥΛΟΠΙΝ ΑΙΝΗΝ ΤΕΥΞΞΕΙΣ, Η
ΦΙΛΟΤΗΤΑ ΜΕΤ'ΑΜΦΟΤΕΡΟΙΣΙ ΤΙΘΗΙΘΑ;

ΟΔΥΣΣΕΙΑ ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

O Father of us all and King of Kings
Enlighten me, what is your secret Will?
War and battle, worse and more of it
Or can you not impose a pact on both ?

The Odyssey: Homer

On October 28th 1949, National Day the King and Field Marshall took the salute of the Army outside Parliament in Constitution Square. The King dressed in the uniform of admiral of the Royal Navy and Papagos, wearing his Field Marshal's uniform. He was the first soldier other than a King to hold such high rank in the Greek Armed Forces. They were surrounded by an enormous crowd, all chanting "Axii!", "Axii!" (Honour, Honour!). At last we were now sure that our leaders had guided us back to the path of democracy. People took up a new cry.... "Let's forget the past. We are all Greeks! Forget!" So we forgot, and that is why so few know about the heroism of the Greek people in the decade 1940-1950. Not a single voice has spoken out about this time. We wanted just to forget. We endured our memories like the Christians of Imperial Rome. Now we needed reconstruction and peace.

The problems facing the country were enormous. The land was devastated. houses destroyed. The guerrilla war caused much more damage than the Axis had during its occupation. Dead on both sides exceeded 100,000, three quarters of a million people were homeless and 28,000 children were missing, kidnapped behind the Iron Curtain.

The big problem still outstanding was that of the missing children. Queen Frederica relentlessly pursued her objective of securing the release of the kidnapped youngsters from behind the Iron Curtain. "The Times" of December 29th, 1949, tells us of her appeal of the previous day:

"Queen Frederica's appeal (28th December).

At a press conference held at the Royal Palace in Athens tonight, Queen Frederica and the Archbishop of Athens appealed yet again on behalf of the Greek Church and State for the repatriation of the 28,000 Greek children abducted by Communist rebels and now retained in Russian satellite countries.

Later Her Majesty broadcast to Britain and the United States.

Tomorrow is to be a day of national mourning in Athens, on the lines of the protest made when Axis forces entered the capital in 1941.

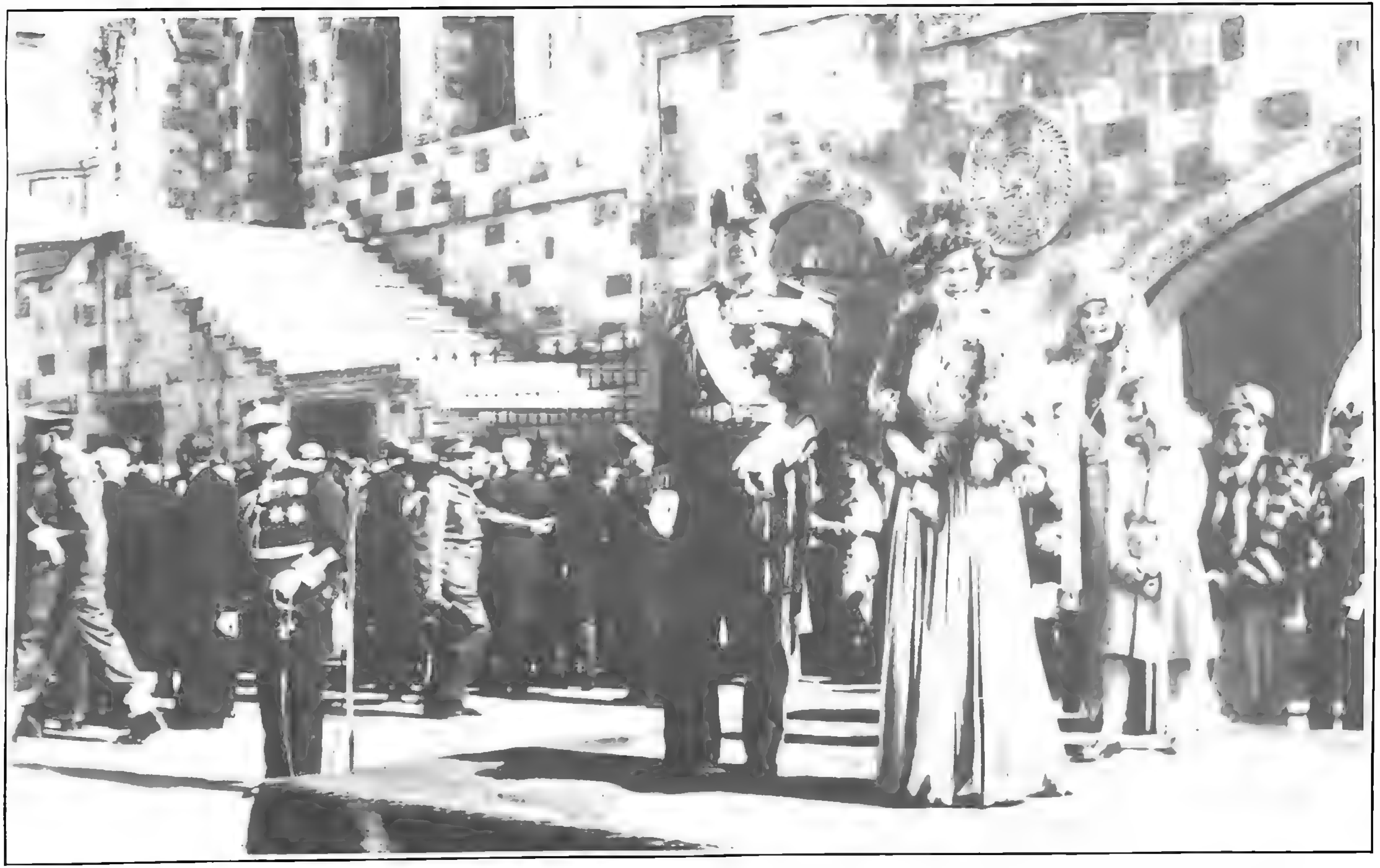
All citizens are asked to keep the shutters of their houses and shops closed for half an hour during which the movement of persons and traffic will cease in protest against this manifold abduction and the failure of the United Nations to do anything about it....

Addressing the journalists at the Palace, the Queen made the constructive suggestion that if it were thought undesirable to send these Greek children back "to monarco-fascist Greece" they might be delivered from the slavery of Communist life and indoctrination by sending them to republican and neutral countries like Switzerland, there to be dealt with by the Red Cross."

On December 28th in her radio broadcast to Britain and the United States she said:

"Like many of you who have a happy family, I celebrated Christmas with my children. Their happy laughter, still echoing in my ears, ought to have warmed my heart and made me feel happy. However, I think of the other mothers whose children were abducted by Communist gangs and are held by force in countries behind the Iron Curtain. Greece mourns the loss of 28,000 innocent children."

"In the name of the Greek nation and especially the stricken families, I request on this day from the civilised world that it pray with me for the fate of those 28,000



Rhodes. King Paul I and Queen Frederica with Princess Sofia at the Celebration of the Union of the Dedocanese Island to Greece.

children. Their mothers came and asked for my help. In their eyes I saw desperation and I heard the sobbing of their broken hearts. With their tormented souls and their empty hands, I turn on this day to all of you and beg you in the name of God and the sake of your children to help me awaken the conscience of the world. Add your voices to mine so that we may bring our children back to the arms of their mothers.

Is the civilised world going to remain silent? Silence before such atrocity can only add to the crime and turn us into accomplices. Have you forgotten that a few years ago the fate of a small child named Lindbergh shook the whole world. In Greece we mourn the loss of 28,000 Lindberghs. Their fate is no less tragic. Not only were they torn from their families, from their beloved homeland, but their innocent souls are systematically poisoned against their parents, their country and God.

This Christmas, No loving mother is going to tell them the story of the Divine Infant. No message of love will reach them in their concentration camps behind the Iron Curtain. They are expecting to be saved, though, by all of us who still believe and have faith in God and Jesus when he said:

"Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to them...."

The Queen based her appeal on thousands of horrible incidents, accounts of which poured in every single day. This account written by Constantine Tsatsos, an ex-minister and one time President of Greece. The extract is from: *The Drama of Eutychia Kalyva.*

"... typical of the extent of Communist criminality is the drama of Eutychia Kalyva, which has caused deep feelings and proves the extent of Communist deception. In spite of the fact the Communists were continuing to assure the United Nations and the world at large, that the Greek people were handing over their children to them with joy and gratitude...."

This episode is real and true. I write it as part of modern Greek history, so that one day poets will praise it and our politicians will be inspired by it; and when our slanderers read it, their faces will blush with shame and Greeks will understand the best of ourselves. The events took place in Kalesmeno, a small village in the Eurytanic mountains, outside of Rarpenesi....

One night when darkness came, the Communist guerrillas surrounded the village and these plunderers stole everything, even furniture from the houses, and abducted women and children. Screams and gunshots echoed throughout the mountains. In one of the last houses in the village lived a sixteen year old girl named Eutychia Kalyva. Her father had been killed by the Germans during the war, and her mother had given

every scrap of her food to her children and died of hunger during the hard days of the occupation. This poor girl was the only one left to look after her little brothers.

Hearing the gunshots and the screams in the village, she understood that the Communist guerrillas would soon be at her door. Quickly, she covered her brothers with every rug she could find in the house and took them out into the darkness. She knew every footpath of the village. Slipping on the snow, walking in front of her two little brothers, she struggled against the wind and their terror and opened a footpath in the snow for them to follow. They were the only treasure left her by her heroic father and saintly mother. In the village the Communist guerrillas were raping the women and abducting the children and sending them to Russia, while she helped her brothers escape through the snow despite her frozen feet and her bleeding and wounded body. Her blood discoloured the white snow as they slowly walked through the mountains . Somehow she managed to reach an army guard post, and when the soldiers saw that her entire body was bleeding and she was drawing her last breath. She had only enough time to say; "Look after my brothers!" and her spirit joined God. Long live the memory of that young heroine, Eutychia Kalyva."

I am sure that this story will inspire authors and poets of the future.

The Queen was also very much concerned with the welfare of girls who had been raped during the Communist War. Most of these girls did not want to return to their villages because they had been dishonoured and as a result lost their traditional place in rural society. The Fund set out to help them overcome the tragedy of their circumstances. We tried to heal their souls as well as their bodies. It was a task that took us many years to complete.

On another occasion I remember Frederica mentioning the innocent and often misguided young boys and girls from the villages who had been lured into the guerrilla bands, tempted by false promises to embrace the doctrine of the guerrillas, many of whom were still ardent Communists. Some understood the mistakes that they had made, but others were still true believers. It was certain that these young people were not lawbreakers, but it was necessary to rehabilitate them, so that they could take their place in the new Greece. After all, as Arthur Koestler wrote in the *Age of Human Mind*, "we are fighting for half truth against a total lie...."

At the time we felt Frederica' s attitude to be too forgiving. It was not our duty to help those who still believed in the teachings of Marx and Lenin, especially as the they had brought so much suffering to the people of Greece. But Frederica was insistent that these people should be treated compassionately, and she won us all over to her way of thinking, it was in the last analysis the Christian course of action. She believed strongly in the theory of "Oneness" as defined by Aristotle who said: "one is the beginning and the beginning is one." We are all one, children of God". A



King Paul I on his accession to the throne of Greece, 1947.



1947. Queen Frederica on her accession to the throne of Greece.



Rhodes 1948. King Paul, Queen Frederica, Princess Sofia and Prince Constantine at the ceremony of the return of the Dodecanese Islands to Greece.

teaching later expounded by St. John. Her belief in this theory was so strong that she had St. John's words inscribed on her headstone:

"As Thou Father, art in me,
And I in Thee,
That they also may be
One in us...."

In a small country like ours, it is a moral obligation to help everyone, and set hate and politics aside.

Their Majesties' Fund was assisted also by foreigners, sympathetic to its Work. These philhellenes contributed money and supplies. I remember a certain Mr. van Wizk who gave a house at Palleon Phaleron as well as medical supplies for the use of convalescent children. Other made similar donations in Agria near Volos and Oreokastron near Salonica. To everyone who helped in this way the Queen sent a personal letter of thanks. It was her personal devotion to the cause that made it so successful.

Today in 1993, forty five years after these events took place, I am often approached by greying ladies and gentlemen who recognise me from the past and remember the work of the Fund, many of whom are themselves products of the "Children's Towns". They are always full of praise for our past efforts and fondly recall Frederica, referring to her as their second mother.[1]

As the fifties unfolded we were able to shift our focus away from resettlement and look to reconstruction. The ravages of war had played havoc with agriculture, and there were approximately three quarters of a million homeless at the end of the Communist War. Agriculture and building projects became a priority. The Fund turned its attention on helping young people rebuild their family homes and taught them agricultural methods. A new group was formed named "Friends of the Village". This organization provided volunteers who helped improve housing standards and provided the villagers with furniture, cutlery and bedding. "The Times" of Thursday, December 29th, 1949 gives an assessment of the economic climate of Greece as the year ended:

"Although the Communist rebellion was raging until September the progress in economic recovery in this year has been as impressive as the military defeat of the rebels. In spite of the fact that some 150,000 families had left their land and were refugees in the towns during the spring and early summer, the harvest this year will be the best since the war...."

The rehabilitation of agriculture with the help of American ECA Funds and advice, has on this score alone made rapid strides. In addition the Greek forestry

commission has planted over six million new trees and distributed over eleven million seedlings to the communities and families.... Land reclamation, flood control and drainage schemes have covered nearly 200,000 acres of land and the experimental cultivation of rice on six hundred acres of salt waste has been so successful that the acreage is to be increased tenfold next year.... Industrial production has continued to rise and is now about 90% of the pre-war level. Every branch of industry has made progress but the biggest increases have been in textiles, building materials and metal workings. With the help of long term loans under the recovery programme, schemes for the expansion of electric power, chemicals and cement, textile and paper industries, *inter alia* are under way.. The mining industry in particular has suffered badly from the Communist rebellion and most of the mines on the mainland which had re-started after the liberation from the Axis occupation were forced to close down again at the beginning of this year. They can now open again and the output of manganese, chrome and iron pyrites is expected greatly to help the national income in the short term. The most obvious sign of economic recovery has been the restoration of communications.... Trains are now running along the whole route except for a short stretch through the valley of Tempe at the south end foot of Mount Olympus.... Much still has to be done to repair the railway stations, many of which have been destroyed by the Communist forces along with other wayside equipment and rolling stock.... The reconstruction of the main roads and ports is now complete, but coastal trade is still hampered by the shortage of vessels.... The drachma to the surprise of many people maintained its stability when its rate was readjusted with that of the pound in September.... The repatriation of the refugees is for the time being increasing rather than reducing the strain on the Greek budget."

As the costs of resettlement are proving greater than was expected because of the almost wholesale damage done by the Communist forces to the abandoned villages.... It may be judged that the general picture of the Greek economic situation is encouraging, but it should not be forgotten that Greece depends proportionately more heavily on Marshall Aid than any other participating country. She had had her war with the Axis, her guerrilla war and the threat of further battles is still a reality, and her economy which even before 1939 was balanced only with difficulty is now overstrained by the burden of refugees." (The Times of London-Thursday December 29th, 1949)

Slowly the country began to rebuild itself and churches, schools, sporting grounds, reservoirs and bridges began to reappear and to function throughout the land. 394 villages and 240,000 people were helped by the T.M. Fund during aid period.

The first priority was to re-establish vital service, address the housing issue and reform agriculture, and as this began to materialise as a reality we are able to start examining our cultural and natural heritage. A project started to protect and preserve historical sites and Byzantine churches. The Byzantine church beside lake Prespa on

the island of Agios Achileos as well as the nature sanctuary on the island owe their repair and existence to an alert lady volunteer of the Fund.

In those days so many voluntary sub-committees and organisations were formed with such frequency, it is almost impossible to bring them all to mind. Each one of them met a critical need and fulfilled it with zeal and purpose. Once it had achieved its goal, it was dissolved and another created to address the next priority. One of the groups was known as the "Roof of the Child". Its parameters were to establish nurseries for the children of working mothers in industrial areas. Infants and toddlers were looked after by trained volunteers whilst their mothers went to work, and were collected by them when they finished.

The Fund's work in the field of education was also expanded during the 1950s. Through its efforts more than twenty thousand children graduated from its schools in places such as Leros, Kos and Nauplion. Crown Prince Constantine, was sent to the school at Anavryta.

On several occasions, wearing a simple dress and head scarf, driving the car of her husband's assistant, Vassali Thomas, the Queen visited poor districts in areas such as Piraeus, Sfagia, Drapestona and Kaissariani where she entered the people's homes without at first telling them who she was. She ascertained the needs of these people and would raise the issues involved with the Committees of T.M. Fund, requesting the necessary aid. In this way new homes were built and old ones modernised. Her charitable interests were so strong that on more than one occasion she created misunderstandings with narrow minded politicians who felt she was out to rob them of their votes. None of us were interested in entering politics, we were devoted to just one ideal and that was to offer genuine assistance to the needy. In that way we offered something to God and people in the most need.

During the summer of 1950 normal life had returned to Athens. It was thought fit to hold two large receptions at the Royal Palace. The first, and certainly the biggest was for those who had distinguished themselves in the Guerrilla War. The King and Queen were anxious to show their appreciation of the services performed by officers and other ranks alike. They were particularly interested in paying tribute to those who had been wounded or more importantly handicapped during the rebellion.

As one of the few ladies of the Court I assisted the Queen entertain the guests. I remember how proud all felt of these members of our Armed Forces. It was both a wonderful and yet sad occasion for us all.

During the reception I met a young officer who had lost an arm accompanied by a nurse. I went up to him and offered him a drink, asking him if he would like orange juice or something else. "Whatever is convenient, Madam", was his polite reply, but he did not take the glass I offered him. Perplexed, I handed him the glass for the second time.



Royal Palace, Greece 1948. Marriage of the King of Rumania and Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parme.

This time he spoke: "Excuse me Madam, I did not see it when you offered it to me. You see, Madam, I have sacrificed both my arms and my eyes for my country." I was shaken.

This handsome young man would never see again and yet he maintained a polite dignity and the love of his country was quite unshaken. I tried to regain my composure, but still I found myself rooted to the spot. Sensing my shock, he went on:

"I gather Madam that I have shocked you." I replied:

"You certainly have, and I hope your selflessness will be appreciated by the generation to come, because it is only through sacrifices such as yours that we have our freedom."

I seem to recall that he told me that he had studied law at the Sorbonne before the outbreak of war. I don't think I will ever forget how that young hero bore his pain and tragedy that had ruined his life.

All the wounded seemed happy and thanked us for the Queen's concern towards themselves and the orphans of the country. The men were particularly impressed that all ranks were present that evening. The Palace gardens were transformed into a parade ground. It was a great privilege to be amongst those young heroes. They were a fine example of how modern Greeks are able to match the deeds of their ancestors from the past. I hope that future generations will remember their sacrifice and hold them in respect.

We all know that after internal turmoil, many European countries follow on with a dictatorship. This was not the case in Greece. The EDA party was left-wing socialist in design, and was joined by many of the ex-Communists. Only those accused of heinous crimes were held responsible for their actions. Many of them were sent to prison and some escaped to the Iron Curtain countries. Greece returned to democracy within 24 hours.

The second big reception was held that summer in the Palace gardens. This was one was for all members of Parliament. Again the ladies of the court assisted the Queen in her social duties. As the guests started to arrive we realised that many members of EDA, the so-called socialist party would be amongst them. As the party had welcomed many former Communists into its ranks, I admit that I was not happy about having to entertain them, but I also realised it was my duty to smile and be polite to everyone no matter what their political affiliation.

To my surprise amongst the guests I recognised one of my school mates from the convent school in Tinos. With a broad smile I went up to her, kissed her and asked who her husband was. To my dismay she told me he was an EDA deputy. I was

stunned, and quickly made my escape. Mrs. Papagos seeing what had happened, intervened, and asked me to introduce the lady to her. Before I did this she hurriedly whispered that we were all there to help the Queen and not to cause embarrassment. Reluctantly, I made the introduction and then was able to slip away.

Mingling with the guests I spotted a Laikon deputy chatting away with somebody and so I approached them. Constantinos Maniadakis proceeded to introduce me to Mr. Sophianopoulos a deputy, and Communist-socialist member of EDA. Annoyed, I commented:

"What fun to see you both enjoying such a cordial conversation!" Maniadakis's reply thundered in my head:

"Our mothers used to meet in Church. But we always differed in our political ideas." I retorted that I imagined that was the case. Sophianopoulos swiftly rejoined:

"Our differences are for public consumption, the reality is quite different." I was stunned by the implication of the statement. Were politics some sort of game and if so, had the handicapped officer who I had met at the previous Palace reception received his dreadful injuries for nothing. Unable to restrain myself, I furiously informed him that those political differences resulted in an entire generation being subjected to a terrible war in which hideous crimes had been committed. Once more I turned on my heel and walked away.

If I continued to react in this way, I knew I would not be serving the Queen well, by continuing to entertain these people. So instead I concentrated only on those whom I knew. Our conversation was interrupted by an uproar. Mr. Maniadakis a fervent anti-Communist, ex-minister and member of Parliament, whilst standing in front of King Paul playfully held up the hands of two notorious EDA deputies one on his left the other on his right. I recognised Mr. Svolos:

"Here, your Majesty, there's no need to worry, I'm holding both of them by the hands." The King laughed loudly, and everyone joined in. This broke the tension and made me think.

Afterwards I walked over and rejoined my friends. We chatted about many things and I found that I was beginning to enjoy the evening. Paul and Frederica, too, were able to put their personal feelings to one side, and they laughed and spent a happy evening with the members of Parliament. In this way they epitomised the axiom "forget", and they, like the rest of us tried to put the terrible years of war behind them.[2]

At last the reception was over. We would now begin to live normally like the rest of Europe. All the Greek people had the right to send representatives to parliament,

whatever their shade of political opinion. The vanquished nations of Germany and Italy, however, seemed to have recovered a measure of freedom before we did.

I looked at Frederica dressed so beautifully at that reception, in glorious contrast to her wartime image of boots and sheepskin jacket. There seemed to be a parallel here between the Byzantine Emperor Andronikos Paleologos influenced by his friend Constantinos, a member of the court, and father of Saint Gregory of Palamas. Circa 1300 he realised that he always wanted to remember that he was only Emperor due to God's will, so he would wear sack cloth next to his skin, and beneath the fine clothes so befitting of his position to remind him that in spite of his grandeur he was first and foremost a human being.

The return of the abducted children from Yugoslavia took place in Florina in 1950, after easing of relations with Tito's Government. As always the indefatigable Queen was there to welcome them.

There was a rapturous welcome, with many of the children personally thanking the Queen for all her efforts on their behalf. With tears flowing down her cheeks, she welcomed them home by saying:

"My dearest children, I was constantly thinking of you, I wanted you to return to our country. Let's hope that the others, your brothers who are still in different places behind the Iron Curtain will soon come home."

She had fought like a lioness on their behalf, having brought the case out into the open and thus to the notice of the international community. It was thanks to these efforts that many children were returned home.

Up to 1950 I was working in Athens in many of the HM Fund foundations. I gave birth to twin sons at the end of March 1949. Six months later I was free to work where I was really needed and that was out on the frontier. I visited the President of HM Fund, Mrs Alexandra Melas, an exceptional personality, who was second in command to the Queen. I told her that I wanted to be sent to the border, because I did not feel my work in Athens was particularly important. She felt it was a little early after the birth of my children, but I insisted that the time was now ripe to begin work.

After some deliberation she came back to me, telling me that a volunteer was badly needed op the Greco-Albanian frontier. She cautioned me that the work was very hard and not without its dangers. There were still guerrillas hidden in the mountains. I told her that when my time was up, it was the will of God, and nothing to do with the Communist rebels! She then agreed to put me in touch with Mrs. Elleni Taris, an elderly Macedonian lady, and a veteran of the Fund. She would be delighted to have me as an assistant. I travelled to Salonica, where Mrs. Tarts was waiting for me. She was to be my guide during our tour of the Grammos mountains and along



Queen Frederica in Greek National Costume.



King Paul I in National Greek Costume.

the Albanian border. The War had badly damaged the roads, which were now practically impassable.

We drove our Landrover along goat tracks bumping over the potholes, ever watchful in case of guerrilla attack. Although the war was over there were still small pockets of resistance in these hills. So at almost 10 o'clock we arrived in Florina in the dark. The town was trying to return to some semblance of normality after years of war and civil strife. The streets were deserted and all the houses in darkness. An all pervasive blackness surrounded us, as if the town itself was in mourning. We found a house that served as a hotel and spent the night there. We arose very early and set off on our visits to the surrounding villages at 5.30am. The first village was Lehovo, where Mrs. Taris introduced me as her assistant to the staff and village women.

To my surprise all the women were dressed in black, and when I inquired why was told by them:

"All of us have buried one, two or perhaps more of our relatives. We thank God that some of our children survived the Germans and the Communist kidnappings and have been given the chance of a new life by the Queen. Thanks to her fund they are now brought up like princes."

We reviewed the programme and staff of the village's "Children's Home" and then drove from one village to another. Night was falling when we reached the village of Antartiko. The "Home" was lit by candles and oil lamps. In the main room children were trying to play in the murky gloom, and their black clad mothers, their faces deeply wrinkled like the masks of some Greek tragedy, sat around the edges of the room and watched them. The whole place had an atmosphere of great drama. I sat down next to them, asking for a cup of coffee and some water, when Mrs. Taris urged them all to speak to me, as I was going to be her successor. One of the ladies turned to my guide and said: "She is too young to understand our tragedy." I was bemused, was I in some theatre, a member of the audience following a play with a cast of fine actresses, or were these tragic women part of the real world? How could such sorrow be reflected in a human face? I looked at them and said:

"I'm here to help Mrs. Taris, but also to help you." Turning to the first villagers, I urged her: "do tell me what happened to you".

She replied that:

"When the monsters, the Albanians, the Bulgarians and the Germans raped our girls, burned our fields and homes, stole our harvests ... and so when the war ended, we thought we could go back to our church and thank God for sparing some of us. But this was not to be. Greeks joined with foreigners invaded this village. They raped

our beautiful daughters in front of our eyes. They kidnapped our children, and even pulled the babies from their mother's breasts. They carried big straw baskets. The baskets were so big they needed two people to carry them, men and women. They threw out newborn babies into these baskets. We screamed, we begged them to kill us and leave our children. We fought to get them back, but they just kicked us in the face. We chased them down the rocky mountain side, and they threw stones at us, so we were cut all over and started to bleed, still trying to save our babies. Those monsters! They were worse than the Nazis, much worse than the Nazis! Now all we live for is to see our children return home. The children that you see here have been saved thanks to the efforts of the Queen. God bless her; forever and forever. Now she is trying to bring home all the other children that are still alive."

What a picture came to mind. How could those little children survive, squashed ten to twelve of them in a basket without food or proper clothing?

I heard similar stories as I toured the other villages. I realised the enormous area covered by the foundation, and how it took care of the needs of the villagers in the border region. On subsequent visits I went alone to the frontiers of north-western Greece. I got to know the people, and the more I saw of them the more I enjoyed them. I visited their homes and discussed their problems over numerous cups of coffee. I stayed in one of the larger towns, in what was euphemistically described as a hotel. A Place without electricity or running water, sleeping in my clothes as the sheets had not been changed from the previous occupant. I was warned to be careful as the owner of that unique five roomed establishment, and its only waiter, was a good Communist.

As I always had to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning I carried with me a thermos, some tea bags and a few slices of melba toast. I asked the hotel owner, who happened also to be lame, to give me some boiling water for the thermos so that I could have a hot cup of tea in the morning. Nothing appeared so I went down to the kitchen and put the kettle on, boiled some water and went back to my room. One month later saw me back in the same place. This time the owner and his wife greeted me with broad smiles. When once again I asked to be able to use the kitchen to boil water for my tea, they objected strongly, saying that they themselves would bring the water to me. I was surprised at this new show of courtesy, and politely told them it was not necessary to go to so much trouble on my behalf, but the man insisted and continued:

"I have heard who you are and that you live in a small palace in Athens, in spite of that you come up here to help our children, and you help us, too. Madam you are the best Communist I have ever met in my life!" I was amazed and said:

"Certainly, you are joking!".

"No I am not," was his quick reply:

"The purpose of Communism is to help poor people and give them some relief, and when I recently met some of my comrades, I told them that I thought you were the best Communist I have ever met."

Looking the man directly in the eye, and quite surprised by his naivety, I asked him:

"Why do you think communism is the best course of action for a man, wouldn't it be better to replace the word communism with the word Christianity? I am a Christian, and perhaps you should be one as well. Tomorrow is Sunday, why don't you and your wife go to Church, receive holy communion and throw all your Communist ideas away."

I became good friends with this couple, and every time I stayed in their ramshackle hotel they looked after me and would always put aside a plate of hot food, usually what they were eating themselves. This was just one of a host of similar experiences I had during this time.

On one of my tours of the front one of the best Greek authors, Elias Venezis,[3] asked to accompany me. The reason for the request was:

"Firstly, I am interested in seeing with my own eyes the work of TM Welfare Fund, and I really want to learn more about Frederica's personality and involvement in the issue, and secondly because I'm writing a book on the life of Pavlos Melas,[4] and so I would like to visit the area in which he lived."

We set off the following week, and Venezis asked me lots of questions on the train journey from Athens to Salonica. We talked for a long time, and I asked him to use the time with me to assess the work of the Fund, and genuinely tell me whether or not he thought the welfare work was worthwhile, and advise me as to whether I should continue my volunteer work, because it was beginning to tire me physically. Venezis promised me that he would give his assessment during our return to Athens.

When we arrived in Salonica on the following morning, the Landrover was waiting and we drove off to Florina. As we reached Grammos a powerful thunderstorm erupted, which gave the mountainous area a glorious beauty. Venezis reached into his bag and read me a letter written by Melas to his wife in 1912:

"Dearest Natalia,

... I am wearing a shepherd's cape to protect myself from the heavy rain. The thunderstorm glorifies this mountain. I am thinking of you sitting in front of the fireplace playing with our little Micky."



Queen Frederica distributes parcels to troops wounded in the 1947 frontier fighting.



The Queen makes friends with a shy little Greek.

"So many people have made so many sacrifices to keep this country free," reflected Venezis. "From across the centuries it has been invaded by " barbarians". Why this destiny?" So we reached Florina where we were to spend the night. This gave Elias the opportunity he needed to visit the TM Welfare establishments in the region.

The next morning we went on to Psarades, the last village in Greece, and the place from where the Italians launched their invasion of Greece.

At one point on our journey we heard the rumbling of thunder in the distance, but the sky was clear. What we could hear was the distant roar of gunfire from far away across the frontier in Albania. Were we about to go down in the annals of history as heroes, killed whilst serving the needs of the Children of the North Western provinces? We both reflected on the issue, and wondered if heroes were created or just came about by chance. Our conclusion was that heroes were not made, but came about when the right set of circumstances materialised to make the act of heroism possible. We did not intend to be heroes, but then incidents like the Albanian gunfire were commonplace occurrences in our work up on the north-western border. We quickly continued our journey. The academician, Venezis, questioned all the villagers about their experiences during the Axis occupation and during the guerrilla war. He was dumbfounded by many of the accounts he heard. On reaching Melas, the village in which Pavlos Melas had been killed by the Turks, and really the object of his accompanying me on our journey, we met a Bulgarian priest. This made me quite angry. Particularly, as there were many Bulgarians in this part of Greece. They had difficulty speaking Greek, and yet they still claimed to be Greeks. We also had the opportunity to visit the island of Agios Achelios on lake Prespa. The Cultural Fund had done a lot of work there restoring the fine Byzantine Church on the island. We were spellbound by the vibrant frescoes we found on the walls of that building. So our visit ended.

On the train back to Athens my companion fulfilled his earlier promise, and gave me his assessment of TM Fund and the part played by Queen Frederica:

"... at the eleventh hour, a young lady of foreign origin, solved an enormous problem for our country. Her inspiration went a long way to saving Greece from foreign occupation. I will tell the Academy of Athens of this achievement. As far as you are concerned, I must thank you as a Greek. In fact I must thank all of you ladies."

I was flattered by his genuine appreciation of our work, and this gave me the energy to continue with my endeavours for HM Fund.

However, the work up on the frontier was very tiring, particularly as I had so much travelling to do, and so I decided that I would rather work in the "Children's

Town" in Kavalla. I asked Alexandra Melas if there was a possibility of a transfer, feeling that I had a lot to offer the girls there. As it so happened the delegate post was vacant at the time, and so she was able to grant my request. On arrival in the town I found the building to be old, in fact it had formally served as an old people's home, and the plan was to move the "Home" to newer premises. I set to work introducing myself to the children, and gradually getting to know them one by one. My tour of duty was to spend seven days in every forty at the Kavalla "Home". I supervised the lessons, monitored the children's behaviour and made a study of their needs. Talking with the children, I quickly came to learn their stories. Some had lost their parents, some had seen mothers and fathers dying before their eyes, whilst others had seen them cruelly murdered. One little girl of 10, told me she often had difficulty sleeping at night. The reason was the dreams she had. In her nightmare she would see her mother's head, with blood pouring from it. I think I will remember her for the rest of my life.

There were so many cases like that of the little girl, that the stories began to haunt me, too. I had bad dreams that woke me in the night. The strain of Kavalla was proving more than I could cope with, it was time to find some peace. I told Alexandra that I intended to resign, and she passed the message on to the Queen. Frederica asked me to come and see her, and quizzed me about my resignation. Asking what in fact it was I wanted to resign from, I was a little puzzled by the question, as the answer seemed so obvious to me. I simply felt the volunteer work was proving too arduous and I wanted to quit. The Queen looked at me long and hard, and then told me:

"You aren't resigning from your volunteer work, you are resigning from yourself. You can't see the truth. The truth is these children mean the same to you, as they do to me. The assistance you give them comes from you. Their sorrow is your sorrow, because you are one and the same.

Of course you must do whatever you want, and if you insist of course you can go ahead and leave your work in the Fund, but think if these children were yours.

With the Queen's words echoing in my head, I took my leave of her and went home. On the way home, I reflected on what she had said, and came to the conclusion that she had been right. The next day I withdrew my resignation, and resolved to work even harder for TM Fund.

Queen Frederica had strong feelings about duty, and when her way was unclear she had no hesitation about turning to others for advice. This is illustrated in her long correspondence with the South African Statesman, Jan Smuts her letters to General George Marshall and to Winston Churchill. It is in these letters she expresses her hopes and aspirations for Greece.

I once asked her about Smuts and she said:





The King and Queen among labour volunteers of St. George. The middle picture shows the Queen taking part in a folk-dance.



".... People know him as a statesman, politician, scientist, botanist, but above all else he was a great philosopher. After all he wrote a book on philosophy.[5] He was not a religious man, and if you asked him whether he believed in the afterlife, he would change the subject. In one of his letters he wrote to me about a mystical experience he had. It was very strange, and rather similar to my husband's experience before he died. It concerned the unknown and the real power of nature. In my opinion Smuts was a statesman, who superseded the narrow bounds of politics. He loved poetry and as a philosopher had his own philosophy. He called this "Holism".

This last letter from Smuts to Queen Frederica was written on 7th May, 1950 a few months before his death on 11th September.

"Your Majesty,

I will not write about politics today.

We had wonderful rain recently all over South Africa and in spite of winter now coming, the country looks a picture. Both yesterday and today have been days of exquisite weather. One breathes such heavenly air all the time. This makes me regret that I am not able to walk and take my full part in the glory of this weather....

In spite of the physical strain of these days of heavy labour, my heart is full to bursting ... .you feel as if you are literally in the "Whole", and no longer yourself but part of the glory of nature that surrounds you. It is at such times that one becomes aware of the Divine, not as something beyond but as the soul and essence of nature and oneself.

Language fills one to express the joy of it and of the unity which goes with it, as if it were only, one glory, one life, one love. I think it is at such times that we realise more fully than at other times the Divine "Whole" in which we share and of which we are part, and is that not the truth too? Aren't we truly one with all things! But only realise this at such great moments of inspiration when the self merges into the "Whole" and that life and consciousness become so to say a great act of marriage, in which, at the heart of things, one finds its supreme communication.... A day like today is like a great feast in which we partake not only of love but of the Highest. There is the great presence of nature and there is the great feast which is consummated in it. This mystery of things should be an unbounded impression and accompany us all the time, but it would be too much for us. It is only on the mountain summits of our experience that we have this sense of realisation of the meaning of it all and feel ourselves as part of the great company at the greatest feast...."

In her reply to General Smuts, Queen Frederica wrote:

"Dear General Smuts,

I hope this letter will reach you quicker than the last one. If I had not made enquiries you would never have got it.

Your last two letters before you fell ill arrived yesterday. What beautiful letters they are. I read them and re-read them time and again.

You write about the great happiness that came over you when sitting quietly in the sun at Dumeln [sic] and looking at the beauty of nature all around. You felt yourself merging into it all, until it was a feeling of complete Unity, Peace and Love. The mystic "Whole" which is the real whole begins with your own consciousness....

I know that these things cannot be explained nor can be proved to others. These flashes of illumination, when truth for a few seconds, is revealed to us, can only be individually experienced but not be given on as a pattern of life to others. When we like ourselves "Whole" conscious or "God" conscious then the "Whole" or "God" can work through us. It is revealed to us as our own unity. We know then, that there is only, One Whole, One Love, One Glory.

I think the mystical "Whole" is in reality the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus spoke about, and which he taught his pupils to find within and not without of themselves.

The flashes of divinity which we can experience during moments of great joy are given to us as a help to find reality. We experience these moments of great joy when the "Self" has merged with the "Whole", in other words, when the Son and the Father come One...."

The years of war had bred a generation nurtured on violence, inured to bloodshed and killing, and the King felt it was his duty to do something to soften the attitudes of the young, who were particularly influenced by this. So he formed a new organisation entitled "Greek Light". He asked his wife to help him in the venture. The intent of the organisation was both cultural and religious. The aim was to spread the message of the Bible, to those who had abandoned their Orthodox Faith.

This was particularly important as the wars years had spawned not only a succession of killings, but was followed in the post-war phase by another host of murders in revenge for what had gone before. To maintain the honour of the family it was necessary to avenge the deaths of family members. The Church with its message of "love thy neighbour" and "thou shalt not take a tooth for a tooth", had an important message to smooth this new era of hatred. So had philosophers and teachers of the past, men like Saint Basil, Saint Gregory, Saint John the Chrysostome and Saint Gregory of Palamas. Academics and notable personalities toured the

country giving lectures and talking to the population, urging them to forget the past and work together for the future.

Members of the National Academy, University professors, doctors, nurses and teachers all lent their weight to the campaign. A job that had to be undertaken by the secular community as many priests had themselves been involved in the violence and ugliness of the past decade. This thrust helped the people regain their spiritual equilibrium. Men and women stopped questioning why God had abandoned them, and started drifting back to the churches. This big concern of the King and Queen was thus addressed.

We must remember that over the centuries Greece and Russia have always had a lot in common. This bond goes back to medieval Byzantium. In 989/90 AD Vladimir, the Tsar of Kiev (Rus)[6] wanted to form an allegiance with the Byzantine Imperial House. He threatened the Byzantines with war if the Emperor, Vassilios Makedon, did not consent to the Tsar's marriage with the Emperor's sister, Anna. Under such duress the Byzantines had no option but to consent to the wedding, and the unfortunate Anna, was whisked off to Kiev where she spent her life fulfilling her duty. However, the Emperor did have one stipulation which had to be agreed upon before his consent was forthcoming, and that was the Tsar, his children and the people of Rus had to be baptised and become members of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Tsar readily accepted this condition, and the marriage then took place.

So the beautiful, refined and well educated Princess Anna arrived in Kiev, accompanied by bishops, Priests and a whole retinue of followers. They were given a delirious welcome by the citizens of Kiev. The Princess was rather surprised when she met the wild warrior who was her husband to be, worse still he suffered from opthalmia, and was hardly able to see his beautiful bride. A few days before the wedding took place and in accordance with the Emperor's condition that the Tsar join the Orthodox Church, he was baptised. History tells us the moment the Bishop sprinkled holy water on Vladimir's head, some of it ran into his eyes, at which moment the opthalmia was miraculously healed. This miracle strengthened the Tsar's new faith quite considerably, and he insisted that his whole court, along with the army and the citizens of Ros join the Orthodox faith without delay. They destroyed the statues of their pagan Gods, and the road was clear for Anna to embark of her work of bringing the beauty of Byzantine civilization to the wild lands of the Ukraine.

She brought artists, painters, musicians, sculptors, architects, teachers, doctors, lawyers and scholars from Constantinople and other parts of the Empire to Kiev. They built beautiful churches, and decorated them with brightly coloured icons. So came a wonderful renaissance to the area, and an air of civilization began to spread into Russia itself. Anna, tamed the wild Tsar, who softened, refusing to condemn to death men who had committed crimes that warranted the death penalty. After Vladimir's death in Kiev he was declared a saint. As for Anna, her lot was not nearly



King and Queen during the guerrillas' war in the Mountains of Greece.



King Paul reviewing the troops.

as bad as first it seemed. Her husband grew to love and respect her, although she died young, she was the creator of the new Russian heritage.

Many centuries later we see that King George I (1863-1913) married a Russian. She was a Princess Olga, youngest daughter of Grand Duke Constantine brother of Czar Alexander. She was much beloved by the Greek people.

There was a definite bond between the Greeks and the people of Russia, a friendship that lasted hundreds of years. In 1918 the Bolsheviks made their bid for power in Russia, and thus that great nation was swallowed up to become part of the USSR.

The Russia of Lenin and Stalin rejected the Orthodox Church, embracing the philosophy of Marx instead, and the bonds between Greece and the USSR began to slacken. With the coming of the guerrilla war the bonds were finally severed. However, many Greeks did not understand that Communist ideology was in direct opposition to the concept of democracy so beloved of the Hellenes. These people still thought of Russia as the Orthodox entity it had been in pre-revolutionary days, and felt common bonds still existed that related them more closely with the people of Moscow than say the inhabitants of London or Washington who were the new allies. It was easy therefore for these people to become enmeshed in the Communist plans for Greek annexation. We had to persistently remind them that political affiliations had changed, and that the USSR had become an enemy and was no longer a friend owing to the dictatorship plus their anti-Christian attitude. Thank God, now Russia walks towards democracy and the respect of human spirit.

As they continued with their Charity Work another issue had come to the attention of the King and Queen; the problem of student accommodation at the University of Salonica. The practice at the time was for the poorer students to rent rooms from landladies in the town. Often these rooms were cramped and uncomfortable and not at all suitable places to study late into the night. King Paul felt that the poorer students deserved better than this, particularly as they would comprise the intellectual elite of the future. He therefore proposed the TM Fund provide them with a proper Hall of Residence, and the rents payable for a room in the residence would be priced in such a way that it would cost the students no more then they were presently paying their landladies. So we built the Residence. It accommodated three hundred and fifty students. Every student had a room to himself. There was a library in the building, collected together by the lady volunteers. There was a dining hall with its own kitchens, several comfortable common rooms and a large concert hall, which would double as a large lecture theatre. I believe a similar project was completed in Athens. I wonder what has happened to those buildings now. I hope they continue to house Greek students, as was their original intention.

Another problem that occupied Queen Frederica at this time was the "Mitera",

the home for unwanted children. The original site had been in the vicinity of Omonia Square, but the building had suffered greatly during the war, and the care given by the institution had largely broken down.

Frederica, therefore decided it was time to put the matter right and create a new one. She summoned my husband and asked his advice on the possibilities of this. Aware that the "Mitera" had an important role in post-war Athens, particularly as so many women had been raped by the Communist rebels, and were eager to put their offspring in a place which would enable them to take their proper place in society without the stigma of being labelled unmarried mothers. A Committee was formed to take care of the matter, and Mrs. S. Venizelos[7] became its chairman. A new building was constructed at Pyrgos Vasselissis, and when it opened Princess Sophia and several young girls worked as volunteers alongside the nurses. Women who deposited their children in the home did not have to give their names or any other form of identification. However, they were encouraged to return incognito and breast feed their infants. The Queen hoped that this would create a bond between mother and child, which would encourage the mother to take back the baby and not put it up for adoption. This policy worked in many cases, and in others it was not uncommon to see mothers with surplus milk feeding babies other than their own, whose mothers did not avail themselves of this right. Unfortunately, these less fortunate, genuinely unwanted infants were put up for adoption under the very strict Greek law.

The Queen did so much work in the field of charitable endeavour that she received the Rene Sand Prize in 1954. The Prize is awarded every two years by the United Nations Social Welfare Committee. The award itself is presented during the Social Welfare Congress. A bi-annual meeting which is hosted on each occasion by a different country in a different continent. The 1954 Conference was held between the 13th and 19th September 1954, in Athens.

In his presentation address, George E. Haynes had the following to say:

"The award for 1954 has been offered to her Majesty, the Queen of the Hellenes, in recognition of her outstanding leadership in serving the human and social needs of the Greek people. I am very pleased to tell you that I have received a few days ago a message from her Majesty accepting the Award and conveying her warmest thanks and cordial greetings to you all. Her Majesty is well informed of the purposes of the Conference and greatly admires its activities. As the President of the Greek National Committee she leads our work in one of the countries closely associated with us. From a full heart she hopes our efforts in this Conference will be crowned with success. I know that I will have the enthusiastic support of everyone in conveying to her Majesty our thanks for her gracious message and expressing our good wishes for the full development of the many schemes which she is leading for the welfare and happiness of the Greek people. Work so courageously done and with such compassion is surely endowed with the fair hopes of a prosperous future for her people. Her

Majesty is not able to be with us this evening, but we shall seek an occasion of presenting to her an appropriate symbol of our highest regard and profound respect for her tireless leadership."

In 1947 Prince Philip had married Princess Elizabeth, daughter of George VI and heir to the British throne. Whispers began to circulate in the Royal Palace in Athens that Philip wanted to officially present his young bride to the family and show her his birthplace, the villa of Mon Repos in Corfu. The visit was officially confirmed, and was to be the occasion for the first post-war ball to be held in the Athens Palace. Here was a wonderful occasion to dress up and have a good time. I went to my dressmaker, incidentally the same dressmaker as Queen Frederica used, and asked her to make me a dress from my lace wedding train. She made me a gown that would have brought joy to the heart of a couturier such as Christian Dior.

What a collection of people flocked into the Palace that night. Queen Frederica wore an old lace dress that had once belonged to the King's Grandmother, Queen Olga. Princess Elizabeth also wore lace, a dress that had belonged to Queen Victoria. It was a really glamorous evening. Later the Royal Guard, the Evzones, dressed in their traditional white kilts, and their beautifully embroidered jackets danced the "Tsamico", a dance originated by the Spartan warriors, when every soldier had to show off his athletic prowess. What a sight to glimpse at these tall young men, jumping high into the air!

It was a dazzling evening, with all the women dressed in their best. The military in their dress uniforms, their chests resplendent with the medals they had won in the war. I do hope the Prince and Princess enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

There were other parties held throughout the week of the British Royal visit. One of these was at the home of the Royal Chamberlain, Mr. Levidis. The Greek dancing was led by Queen Frederica who was closely followed by Lady Norton, wife of the British Ambassador, herself an excellent friend of Greece. It was an unforgettable week, which will stick in my mind forever.

Good times were back again after a decade of privation and death, we joined with our Allied friends: the British, the Canadians, the New Zealanders, the South Africans and the Americans to remember the dead. In May 1952 a memorial service was held at the Allied Cemetery at Paleon Phaliron, a suburb in Athens to pay tribute the Allied dead. The King and Queen were present and the British Royal Family was represented by HRH the Duke of Gloucester[8] and the British Government by Lord Halifax.[9] Other Allied Nations were represented by their ambassadors.

It was a beautiful spring morning, and the Acropolis glistened in the sunlight and reflected off the silvery sea at Saronikos.







Top:
King Paul Christening John-Paul Papanicolaou.

Above:
Queen Frederica christening Nicholas-Frederick Papanicolaou.

Queen Frederica, with Sophocles Papanicolaou, husband of the author, christening one of the author's twin sons.

It gave us the sensation of eternal celestial glory. I stood there gazing over the rows upon rows of graves. Young men from other countries who had given their lives for Greece, in order that we all reached our common goal of freedom in all its forms.[10]

It was a very mystical moment, standing looking across the bay to Salamis, a landscape vibrant with history. It was Salamis where Themistocles led the Greek fleet to victory against the Persians, so checking their advance into Europe. The words of Leonidas of Sparta came into my mind as I listened to the "Te Deum" of the remembrance service.

"Tell them in Lacedaemon (in the world)
Passer-by, that here, obedient to their
Laws, we lie."

Ω ΞΕΙΝ ΑΓΓΚΕΔΔΕΙΝ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΟΙΣ ΟΤΙ ΤΗΔΕ ΚΕΙΜΕΘΑ ΤΟΙΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝ
ΡΗΜΑΣΙ ΠΕΙΘΩΜΕΝΟΙ

We left the cemetery, and with us "was an invasion" of mothers, sisters, sons and daughters who had come from all corners of the British Commonwealth, to remember their relatives who had fallen. Some dry eyed, laid wreathes on graves of their loved ones. Moments like this, take our thoughts to another plane, posing questions about the future. Will our children and will their children see better and happier days? Would our prayers for peace be answered. Had God heard us and would he grant the peace and freedom from destructive hate that we had all so earnestly desired?

Greece could no longer afford to be at war. The time of peace had come. A time of strict accord and collaboration with our allies. We had to work to forge bonds with Europe and America and participate within the bounds of NATO. Greece could now assume a more considerable role in world affairs. We joined the Council of Europe in 1949 and were formally admitted into NATO in February 1952. In keeping with this new philosophy, the Hellenes entered the stage as a world power.

Greeks fought in the Korean War (1950-53). The country had battled and suffered greatly to escape the clutches of Communism, and now no longer was able to shelter behind a neutral or isolationist foreign policy. Having come out strongly as a non-Communist power, we now had to display our new affiliations.

On June 8th the King and Queen left Greece aboard the Royal Hellenic Navy flagship "Elli" on their ten day state visit to Turkey, a neighbour and fellow member of NATO.

Queen Frederica writing to General Marshal on June 26th, 1952 describes the visit.

"... the King in an official speech declared:

the time has come for both countries to forget forever the bitter history of 500 years, which deeply divided our two countries. He pointed out that Greece would defend all her borders in case of war.... The Turkish Prime Minister said to the Greek officials to understand privately that his Government was sympathetically inclined over the Cyprus question. And we would find no great difficulties.... I must say this Turkish visit has been to us one of the most extraordinary experiences we have ever had.''[11]

General Marshall in his reply to the Queen said :

"I was tremendously interested in your account of your visit to Turkey. While the press have very favourable comments...."[12]

On October 28th, 1953 King Paul and Queen Frederica paid an official visit to the United States. President Eisenhower sent the presidential plane "Columbine" to take the Royal couple to Washington. The aircraft landed at Washington's National Airport on a beautiful autumn afternoon. This was a wonderful day for King Paul and Queen Frederica, because here they had an opportunity to convey to the Americans the gratitude of the Greek people for all the help that America had afforded them during the dark decade from 1940-1950.

This aid started during the war years when President Franklin Roosevelt sent tanks and aeroplanes to Britain and Greece to fight the Axis threat and had continued after the war when the US stood by and helped repulse the danger of Communist aggression. The Americans had recently offered support to Greece when the Ionian islands were shattered by a series of earthquakes in 1953-54.

The Royal couple were greeted at the airport by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his wife, along with Admiral Robert B. Carney, United States Chief of Naval Operations and many others.[13]

Queen Frederica, dressed very smartly, was the first to appear on the aircraft steps and she was followed by the King wearing his uniform as Field Marshall of the Army. A guard of honour paraded on the tarmac and as the King and Queen put foot on American soil a 21 gun salute shook the windows of nearby buildings. The King reviewed the guard and then they both entered an open car for their drive into the American capital. Rounding the Lincoln Memorial, they drove into the District of Columbia, where 150,000 people lined the streets waving flags and shouting "Zito!" (Long Live!) and "Welcome!" At the Columbia building, a dais had been erected, flanked on either sides by portraits of the Greek monarchs. A welcoming committee lined up to be presented, and Frederica was handed a bunch of red roses by Edgar Morris, Chairman of the Citizens Welcoming Committee. This was followed by a short speech from Samuel Spencer, Commissioner representing the District of Columbia:

"... it is heartening to know that under your leadership Greece stands firmly on our side ...", whereupon he presented King Paul with the freedom of the city. The crowd was surprised how fluently the King spoke English, as he thanked Mr. Spencer. After the official welcome which clearly moved the couple, they drove to the White House. Their motorcade was preceded by a naval band, and there on the White House lawn stood President and Mrs. Eisenhower. The President greeted his guests, saying:

"... it is a particularly happy opportunity that we may repay something of the hospitality which you so graciously extended to us two years ago in Athens. May your stay here be an enjoyable one and may you find as much pleasure in our house as we did in yours".

As Paul and Frederlca entered the grounds of the White House a choir from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, dressed in the white robes of ancient Greece burst into the strains of the National Anthem.

At the official welcoming dinner in the state dining room a huge horseshoe table sparkled under candlelight. The President read a citation on presenting King Paul with the Legion of Merit:

"Your Majesty, as I hand this to you, I am going to ask our guests to rise for a toast to Your Majesty the King and to Your Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes."

Responding the Monarch offered the thanks of his people for American aid and support during the war years and in the following post-war period, reminding his host that Greece was the first democratic country to have defeated an open attempt at Communist subversion. In return the Greeks responded by presenting Eisenhower with the Grand Cross of the Saviour.

During the visit to the White House a press conference was staged for the Royals. Amongst the sea of journalists facing them, the Queen suddenly recognised a face she knew, it was that of David Douglas Duncan, an American journalist who had accompanied both the King and the Queen on their visits to the war zones during the Communist rebellion. David Duncan found it difficult to recall the Queen in all her finery of long dress and glittering jewelry, and jokingly he reminisced over a little quip of theirs, made first in the mountains on the north west frontier:

"Madam, you don't look like a Queen, you look like one of their sisters!"

The King and Queen spent the first night of their American visit in the White House, and slept in Lincoln's bedroom, a great honour!

The Royal party's schedule was extremely arduous. Pleasant informal incidents



Queen Frederica in the Mountain of Greece with soldiers and children.



Queen Frederica with General Papagos.

lightened the strict formality of the official receptions. While they were in New York a florist delivered a single red rose, with a card bearing the inscription ... "To the girl on the plane". The rose was from a sailor with whom she had travelled as a seat companion on a military flight from Egypt to South Africa. So distraught at leaving Paul in Cairo, she had been in tears for most of the trip. Try as she did, she was unable to locate the man in order to thank him.

All during the tour the remarks of the Royal couple showed them to have a quick grasp of world affairs on all levels. In one speech Paul quoted from the American poet Walt Whitman:

From imperfections murkiest cloud, darts always forth
One ray of perfect light, one spark of heaven's glory...."

In another address he told his audience:

"Materialism can be conquered by humanity and understanding, unfortunately when aggression is militant it has first to be stopped by force. This is why Greece exhausted by four years of war and Nazi aggression fell victim to Communist invasion and rebellion, and these had first to be suppressed by military action...."

One reception followed another, but they were saddened that at the glamorous affair given by Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, there was a notable absentee, General George Marshall. Marshall could not be present as he had been taken ill, and was in the Walter Reed Hospital at the time. The Queen took some time off from her official engagements to go and visit him there. They were delighted to meet once more, and were no doubt able to discuss their correspondence at some length. It was a pity that this cordial visit should have had to take place in a hospital.

The Royal tour took them to Philadelphia, a name that comes from the Greek, meaning brotherly love, New York, Boston, Toledo, Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Everywhere they went they were welcomed with enthusiasm by the Greek and American community alike. They urged people to visit Greece, declaring it once more safe for tourism, thus they paved the way for the tourist invasion which was to come in future years.

Reports filtered back to Athens about the success of the visit, and we were all delighted to have such competent ambassadors of goodwill as King Paul and Queen Frederica had proved themselves to be.

On November 3rd, 1953 King Paul addressed the eighth General Assembly of the United Nations:[14]

"I stand before you with deep respect. For me no building encloses this Congress: I see no individuals separated from each other by language, race or religion. In my

mind, as I gaze upon you from my Greek platform, I see before me the spirit of man emanating from the heart and soul of each one of you. It is to this spirit I bow my head.... The same emotions such as suffering, pity and hope, link us within one great experience and prove the oneness of our inner lives. The people in Russia suffer as much as the people of Greece. The young boy who bravely goes to war to defend his country makes the same sacrifice in leaving his family whether he comes from America or Europe, from Asia or Africa or Australia. The tears of one mother are the tears of all."

It is worth making the point that the King and Queen always wrote their own speeches. They would brainstorm for ideas, and then jot those ideas down as a rough draft, which would be cleaned up and polished, before being submitted to the Prime Minister for final approval.

The Royal visit to the United States drew to a close. The schedule had been long and hard, and they were both very tired when they sailed out of New York on December 3rd. In his farewell message of thanks to the American people, King Paul said:

"Truly you are a great people. Your greatness lies not only in the power of your armed forces but far more in the fundamental goodness of your heart.

I have always believed that deep human sentiments such as friendship, generosity, unselfishness, understanding and love must balance, if not outweigh, material means if we want to build a better world.

I leave you with a deep sense of optimism because I know that you possess all these qualities in abundance."

In the year 1953-54 many things took place in Greece, Frederica and Marshall had continued their correspondence in this time and I allow them to make the necessary comments.

Just prior to their Majesties visit to America a dreadful catastrophe befell Greece, to which we have only briefly alluded. On August 10th a dreadful earthquake hit the Ionian Islands. The islands of Caphallonia, Ithaka and Zakynthos suffered the brunt of the calamity. In all 455 people were killed, approximately 1,000 injured, more than 25,000 homes destroyed and 100,000 rendered homeless.[15] Admiral, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Commander-in-chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet flew over the devastated area from his base in Malta and commented in a radio broadcast on 14th August that:

"It seemed as though a giant hand had been put on the roofs of the buildings and pressed down hard until they collapsed."

The King, Queen and volunteers of TM. Fund hastened to the islands, in order

to comfort the people and oversee the rescue services. I accompanied the Queen to Zakynthos and Cephallonia, although the main quake had already hit, we experienced a whole series of aftershocks whilst there. These tremours sent rocks and stones rolling down the steep hillsides. On more than one occasion we stood still as mini-landslides swept across out feet, the debris cutting our legs and making them bleed. We took with us milk and medicines, and the Queen organised a shipment of tents to provide temporary shelter for the homeless 1,600 children were accommodated in the "Paidopolis", and the fund contributed five million Drachmas for re-construction. We worked alongside the Red Cross and other aid agencies to help the unfortunate inhabitants of the islands. It was on this occasion that King Paul:

"... became really aware, in an immediate and vivid sense, of the extent of which the mere presence of the King could completely eliminate all barriers of reservations and could impart spiritual comfort and moral encouragement. Everything was still in chaos, with the authorities striving hard to cope with a situation far beyond their capabilities at this early stage. People were squatting about on the ground near the ruins of their homes, still stunned and unable to grasp the full extent of the catastrophe that had descended on them..."[16]

It was awful to see the destruction, and many houses were burning when we arrived. These fires occurred because the first shocks hit as the population prepared its evening meal.

The Ionian Islands had given birth to historical figures across the centuries men such as Capodistria was born in Corfu[17] and the poet Solomos, famous for his poem that serves as the Greek National Anthem. The real tragedy was the destruction of life and property on the islands. A tragedy to which the world community, as a whole, rose to and aided in the spirit of true humanitarian compassion.

Greek ship owner Vergotis rebuilt at his own expense an entire village in Caphallonia. Meanwhile another earthquake was brewing elsewhere, and that was the thorny issue of Cyprus. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, badly in need of a rest had arranged with the British Ambassador in Athens, Sir Charles Peake for the loan of William and Nadia Rees's yacht, "Lady May", for a cruise around the Greek Islands. Greek Prime Minister Alexandros Papagos heard of this unofficial visit and approached Peake to arrange a meeting to discuss the difficult issue of Cyprus. Peake had been injured during the war, and had to take a lot of medication, and either to spare Eden or through forgetfulness, the issue slipped his mind. Their cruise over, the Edens returned to Athens before flying back to London. On the eve of their departure a dinner was held in Mr. and Mrs. Eden's honour by the British Ambassador at the Embassy.

Eden and Papagos locked themselves in the Ambassador's study. I was at that dinner, leaving the dining room I found three ladies clustered around the closed door



Queen Frederica and King Paul on the Front Lines in the Grammos Mountains.



Queen Frederica healing a child.

of the room where politicians were in conference. Naturally, out of curiosity I joined them. Unfortunately we could not hear anything!

We were interested to see the faces of the two men as they left the meeting as that would give us some indication of the fruitfulness of their talks. Then Papagos came out, his face was set and stern and his hands were clasped behind his back. Eden, however, did not emerge. Rumours began to flow back and forth, the gist of which were that Eden probably unwarned by the British Ambassador with regards to the subject of the meeting desired by Papagos, made it bluntly clear to the Greek Prime Minister that the topic was off-limits. Papagos had taken this as a personal insult. It was at that point that the Cyprus problem began in earnest.

The problem was not a new one. Cyprus had been ruled for 300 years by the Turks. There were several serious rising against Ottoman rule. The Greek Community of the island rose in 1821 in collusion with their brothers on the Greek mainland to rid themselves of Turkish occupation, the rebellion failed. On June 4th, 1878, Britain was given nominal control of the island in return for British assistance against Russian encroachment on Turkey's eastern border. The island was officially annexed by the British Government in November 1914, on the outbreak of war with Turkey. British sovereignty was formally recognised by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1924, and thus Cyprus became a British Crown Colony. Disturbances first erupted in 1931, when the Greeks demanded **"ENOSIS"** (union with Greece). After the War political agitation for this union was resumed. The leader of the movement was Archbishop Makarios (Mikhail Mouskas), at the age of 37 became the youngest prelate to occupy the Archepiscopal throne of the Church of Cyprus, which was founded by St. Barnabas in AD 45. He took as his title Makarios III, in a position that comes next in seniority only to the 4 Patriachates of the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is interesting to realise that the Archbishop is elected by the people both as a Primate and as "Ethnarch" or secular National leader. Eden's snub of Papagos laid the way for a more vociferous support for the unification of Cyprus with Greece. The way was now open for General Grivas, code named "Dighenis" and "EOKA" (Ethniki Organos Kypriakou Agonos ... or the National Organisation of Cypriot struggle) to begin its work.

In February 1954 Archbishop Makarios visited Greece and was assured that the issue would be raised in the General Assembly of the United Nations if the British attitude did not soften, and agree to tripartite talks on the future of the island. Any hope of this was once more quickly dismissed by Anthony Eden who told The House of Commons on March 15th, 1954:

"It has been made clear to the Greek Government, Her Majesty's Government cannot agree to discuss the status of Cyprus."

In an attempt to defuse the escalating situation, it was decided that Prime

Minister Churchill should be approached in the hopes that he would intervene in the affair, as it was felt he was more sympathetic to the Greek cause than his Foreign Secretary Eden. After all had not Churchill said as long ago as 1907, whilst Colonial Under Secretary in the Henry Campbell-Bannerman Government:

"I think it is only natural that the Cypriot people, who are of Greek descent, should regard their incorporation with what may be called their mother country as an ideal to be earnestly, devoutly and fervently cherished...."

The situation again raised its head when King George II, was forced to flee Greece as a result of the Axis invasion in 1941, and once again Churchill had shown his support.

"The question of finding an alternative seat for the Greek Government in the event of enemy occupation had already been broached before the evacuation of Greece by Churchill, who on 13th April 1941 sent a message on the subject to General Maitland Wilson in Athens:[18]

I am so glad to hear that the King is not leaving Greece at present. He has a great opportunity of leaving a name in history. If, however, he or any part of the Greek Army is forced to leave Greece, every facility will be afforded them in Cyprus, and we will do our best to carry them there.

A few weeks later the question was raised again, this time in Crete by the new Greek Premier, Mr. Tsouderos, who told the British Ambassador that should they be obliged to evacuate Greek territory altogether the Greek King and Government would prefer to seek refuge in Cyprus. Mr. Tsouderos elaborated on the suggestion by proposing that Britain should cede Cyprus forthwith to Greece ... as had been done with the Ionian islands. The existing British administration of the island would be retained for the duration of the war, but the King and his Government would be establishing themselves in Cyprus as Greeks among Greeks and not as refugees in a foreign country.

The reply was not long in coming. Faced with the stark reality of Greek hopes and expectations affecting a British colony, the British Government had second thoughts about the proposal - which it had itself put forward in the first place - and the Ambassador duly informed the Greek Premier that his Government could not discuss the Cyprus question at the moment and did not wish the Greek Government to seek refuge in Cyprus, since its establishment there would provide the Germans with justification for attacking the island.- an eventuality which Britain wished to avoid as Cyprus was unfortified and defenceless. Why the Germans should require an excuse to attack British territory at a time when they were already at war with Britain was a detail for which the British Ambassador volunteered no explanation."[19]

There was a problem, however, who should make this direct approach. Clearly the King could not. As a constitutional Monarch and Head of State any approach by time to the Prime Minister of a foreign country would be irregular if not unlawful, and it certainly considered as an official request when received by the British Government. Papagos on the other hand anxious to feel his way in a delicate situation, saw another solution. Would it not be better to have Queen Frederica send a letter to Churchill. She had met him on more than one occasion, and could make an unofficial contact as she was not the Head of State.

A letter was duly drafted by the King and Queen and submitted to Papagos, who suggested certain changes, and then carried to Sir Winston.

Some critics have complained that Frederica abused her role as Queen consort, and deliberately interfered in politics. The Churchill letter should discredit such arguments. Papagos the elected Prime Minister of Greece was fully aware of the letter, having encouraged the Queen to send it. He used her as an emissary in an attempt to solve a very delicate matter that put the good relations between Britain and Greece in jeopardy. He was looking to keep the door open, so that discussions could continue with the British in the hopes that an ugly situation could be averted.

In her letter to Churchill, Frederica wrote in a way that was designed to appeal to the emotional side of the Prime Minister's nature:

"Athens, March 4th, 1954.

Dear Mr. Churchill,

In writing to you today I feel as if I have been advised to do so by our mutual friend General Smuts. He was, as you know, during the war years not only a friend but also an advisor and teacher to me. I remember him always pointing out to all of us that the only man left who combined within himself the qualities of a statesman as well as those of a great human being was yourself. I therefore address myself today to that statesman of great insight as well as to the great human being of deep understanding.

My husband and I are beginning to get worried about what is happening concerning Anglo-Hellenic relations.... A small island called Cyprus seems to have become cause of estrangement between us. This should not be. England and Greece have been emotionally linked together for a long time. and their union has been based upon completely unselfish foundations. We proved this when we stood by you during the most dangerous hours in recent British history."

You had no other friends in Europe that were free to decide if they wanted to make your cause their own....



Queen Frederica gives the Flannels to the Army.



Mrs Vrela and King Paul.

We know that your ideals were ours. We did not bargain as we stood by you alone in the South, as you stood alone in the North. I believe that ours were the only people who gave flowers to the British soldiers when they had to withdraw, thus bringing healing in defeat to the wounded pride of many a British soldier.

Our people love England. It is a love possible only due to a complete lack of a sense of inferiority. I have so often noticed in other countries who pretend to dislike England, that in reality they suffer from an inferiority complex. Our people are a proud people, just and fair.

But now, Sir Winston, the Greek spirit is really hurting owing to the categorical refusal to have any discussions upon the future of Cyprus.

Love such as our people have always had for England is slowly but surely turning into bitter resentment. Our people feel that those great values that united us during History have the same meaning for England as they have for Greece.

I know that politics are not based on emotion, but our people are highly emotional people. They feel that they have played the game truly and honestly. It is now England's turn to prove her friendship, sense of justice and fair play.

The Greeks of Cyprus are Christians, they are Europeans as well as Greeks.... Do you believe that our people will ever understand that Christians, Europeans as well as Greeks could ever remain Colonials in this modern age. You cannot possibly make them understand that England, could possibly think and feel like this about any Greek. It is in this last-mentioned thought that our people feel justifiable bitterness.

I have now put to you the emotional side of the problem from the point of view as far as our people are concerned. It is no way exaggerated.... Something must be done to save our union. It is a good one, the best there has ever been. "

"You may well ask whether England's friendship with us is less dear to you than Cyprus! I can only answer: England's friendship was dear enough for us to sacrifice ourselves and our Country for the same cause and mutual ideals that we have shared for generations....

The prestige of England to us "foreigners" lies not in the greatness of her Empire ... but lies in the greatness of her spirit. A spirit, Sir Winston that is still alive in yourself.

I appeal to you to help us keep the door open so an agreement between our two Countries remains a possibility, and so that we do not have to drag before the profane eyes of the world our family quarrel. All we want is an open door through which

discussions will remain possible, so that we might determine a gradual evolution of the Cyprus question to the satisfaction of our Countries.

I remember our discussions of the past, something which has remained private, but has been a great blessing to my Country. You understood our problems and you brought me in contact with General Marshall, so that greater American aid was given to our Army, and a direct outcome of this meeting was our troops, led by our present Prime Minister, then the Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshal Papagos, were able to achieve their first victory against Communist aggression. I believe, therefore, that through your influence once again great mischief can be prevented.

I would like to be able to privately discuss this subject with you and with anyone else you might suggest, as long as we can keep our discussions out of the press and away from official documentation. If further discussions between us are not possible, then this letter must remain as the only hope that something might be done to keep the door open.

Would you please treat this letter as absolutely and completely confidential, as it is a purely personal letter and expresses our personal feelings and views.

My husband joins me in sending you our best regards and wishes.

Frederica R."

It has already been emphasised. that Frederica's letter was known of and approved by Premier Papagos. The original draft was submitted to him for approval and he returned it, along with a covering letter on 26th March:

"THE PRIME MINISTER
Athens.

March 26th, 1954

Your Majesty,

I enclose herewith, for Your Majesty, the Greek and the English draft of the letter addressed to Sir W. Churchill and I believe instead of creating any sort of misunderstanding it will on the contrary help to leave the door open.

I would have begged only from pages 3-4 to release the following:

"As things are now, in September our Government is bringing the question

before the United Nations Organisation. Most probably England will win the case legally, but morally and spiritually she will stand accused by her best friend who is mortally offended, will have had to ask for outside help. It is most probably the very Anti-Christ himself, Russia, who will use this opportunity to bring new conflict and confusion within the Western World, as well as those great democratic values to which we have all been pledged."

The release of this paragraph precludes the impression that we think that we are rather sure of a possible failure of our possible appeal to the General Council of the United Nations.

I beg your Majesty to accept the feelings of my greatest respect.

Alaxander Papagos. "

On the 7th of April a reply came to the Queen from 10, Downing Street.

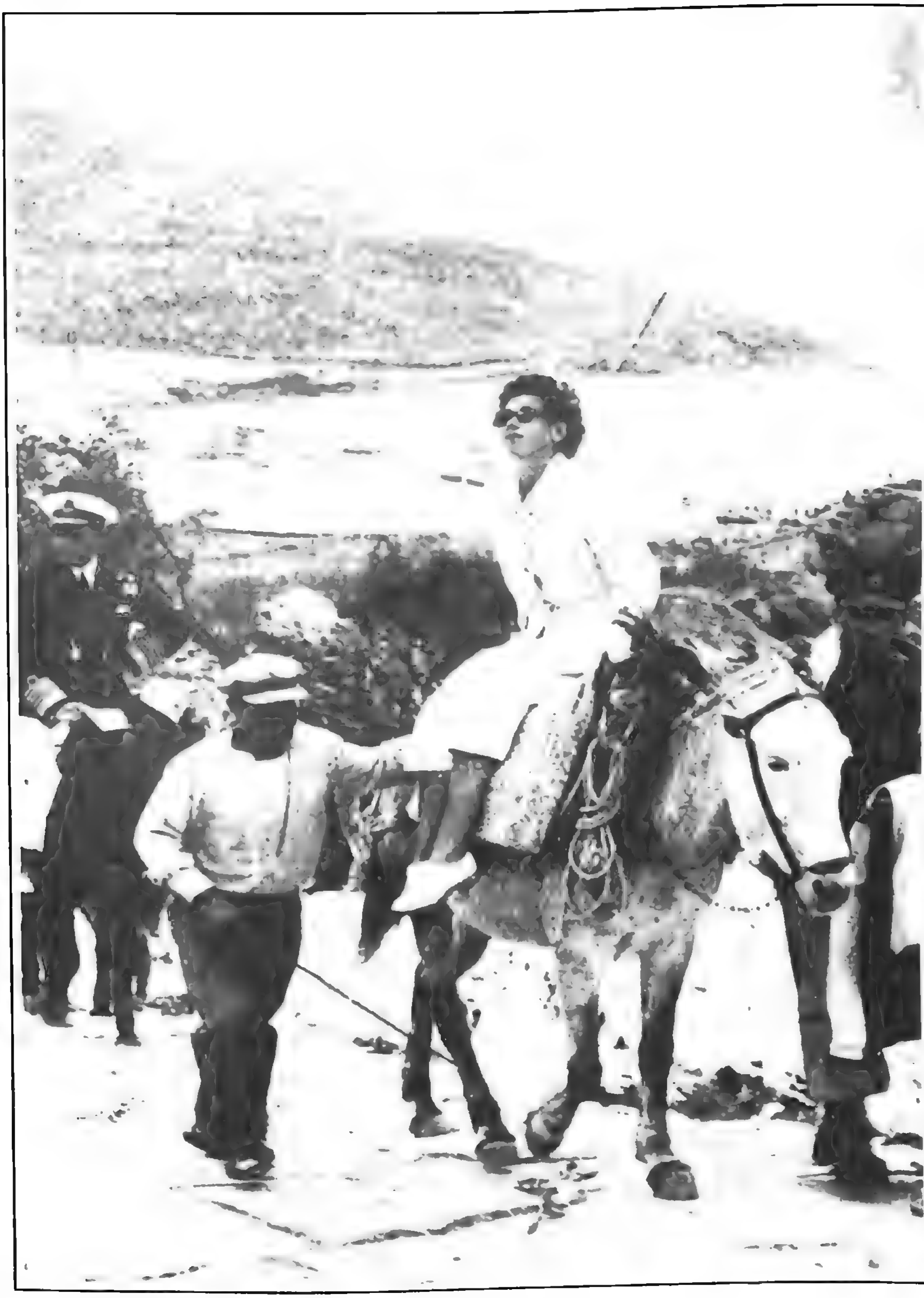
"THE PRIME MINISTER
10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

April 7th, 1954.

Madam,

Lord Leicester brought me your Majesty's letter. I shall show it to the Foreign Secretary, but while we fully share your feelings on the subject of Anglo-Greek friendship it would not be right for me to leave Your Majesty in doubt of our conviction that this is not the time, in the interests of either Greece, Great Britain, or, wider still, of NATO for discussion about changes in the government of Cyprus.

The island is of vital importance to the defence of the Middle East and of the Mediterranean. While that remains the case, disturbances of the present regime could do nothing but harm to us all. I remember with emotion the friendly feelings shown by the Greek people in the war to the British armies who came to help defend them, first from Nazi invasion and later from Communist revolution. If a third world war should come it might well be that British blood would once again be shed to save Greece from invasion. I can assure Your Majesty that withdrawal from Cyprus would certainly not help to that end and might, indeed, fatally weaken the combination on which the safety of us all depends.



King Paul and Queen Frederica in the mountains.

I beg you to convey my respectful good wishes to the King and remain

Your Majesty's obedient servant,
Winston S. Churchill.

To: Her Majesty the Queen of the Hellenes."

The Queen expressed her true feelings when she wrote about these matters in her private correspondence to George Marshall.[20]

Athens, August 19th, 1954

Dear General Marshall,

I enclose a letter which I wrote early this year to Mr. Churchill. By the answer you will see I failed in my attempt to avoid mischief. A wave of fanatic anti-British feeling is now sweeping our country....

During this last year feelings have been rising in Cyprus and Greece, until now they have reached boiling point. There has never been a question of the British losing any bases in Cyprus. We don't want them to leave.....As a matter of fact they can have as many bases as they like on the mainland and on any of our islands. All the Cypriots want is to unite with Greece as have the Ionian Islands, Crete and the Dodecanese. It is natural that they refuse to remain "colonials" considering they are Europeans and Greece is such a proven and friendly ally of England. As things are getting from bad to worse the British have made what I consider another gaffe. The Minister for the Colonies, Mr. Lyttelton, announced in Parliament that Cyprus would never be given any independence nor be united with Greece as, although Greece was a friendly nation, it was far too unstable to be relied upon, or words to that effect.

The worst gaffe of all is that lately they offered a new Constitution to the Cypriots, which is far worse and less democratic than any offered, and rejected in the past. Under this new Constitution the majority of the people's representatives are to be appointed by the Governor, while the minority can be voted for by the public. As a result a storm of resentment has arisen in Cyprus as well as in Greece.

Immediately after the new terms of the Constitution were made known a severe sedition law had to be introduced in Cyprus making it illegal to criticise the new Constitution or to write about union with Greece. Five years in prison as well as exile is the penalty for those who re-print speeches made in the British Parliament or articles written by Englishmen in England criticising British policy. In all fairness to the British, I must say the British press as well as many important Englishmen are strongly criticising their own policy in Cyprus....

Of course things will get worse. The next thing we shall have are imprisonments and exiles as neither the Church or the people of Cyprus will give up the fight. After all they feel it is now their turn to follow the example of Greece proper and succeed in getting their freedom from a foreign rule.

All this trouble could have been avoided so easily as all we asked for was the possibility just to discuss with England the possible evolution of a satisfactory solution of the Cyprus question for both of our countries.

This would have needed no fixed time or dates, only it would have meant the possibility of freedom (independence) sometime in the future. This would have avoided all the acuteness as well as bitterness and all it would have needed was just a little goodwill and statesmanship.

But now the Greek Government forced by a united public opinion is bringing the question before the U.N.O. where it will have to take its course. This we had all hoped to avoid ..."

The Cyprus issue was brought before the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 17th, 1954, but the result was less than satisfactory, the resolution stated:

"For the time being it does not seem appropriate to adopt a resolution on Cyprus."

I remember that session, my husband and myself were invited for lunch on the day of the debate. As the various delegations filed out of the General Assembly, the Persian (Iranian) representative came over and joined our group, so jokingly I said:

"I hope you voted in our favour because Greece and Persia have such a long history."

Laughing, the Iranian answered:

"Still we can't forget that Alexander burned Persepolis!"

"You take me back 2400 years when Mithridates, Kyros and Xerxes invaded Greece." I replied with a smile.

"We must both be proud to remember that our two countries were the most civilised on earth!" was his reply.

The Cyprus question was no longer a solely Greco-British affair, it had now become an international problem. The unsatisfactory outcome in New York led to a

flare-up of civil disturbances in Cyprus as well as mainland Greece. The demonstrations were no longer just directed against the British, but now took on an anti-American flavour, because the US had refused to support the Greek case in the United Nations. On December 20th, three days after the UN debacle King Paul appealed for calm over Athens Radio:

"Our Cypriot brothers demand their freedom through the right of self-determination, for which two great wars have been fought. Greece, faced with Britain's refusal to discuss the subject directly, was compelled to bring the issue before the United Nations. As long as the Cypriots proclaim their indomitable will to decide their own destiny, no power on earth can thwart the natural evolution of this desire. But let us not forget that our friends who have disappointed us in the Cyprus affair are the same who today, in the past, and in the future, guarantee our security and that of the free world. I call upon all Greeks to remain objective and calm, and not to forget that our traditions impose good sense in our emotions and clarity in our judgement. I appeal to my people at this difficult time to remain worthy of our high traditions, and with Hellenic nobility and pride to remain faithful to our friends."

In the summer of 1954 the Cyprus affair had not as yet soured relations in the Balkans and the atmosphere was sufficiently favourable to allow a state visit to Greece by President Tito of Yugoslavia. This took place between June 2nd and 6th.

This was an historic occasion because Greece and Yugoslavia had been enemies during the war. However, relations between Tito and Stalin became strained after hostilities had ceased. After having appointed himself Marshal, he assumed the premiership of Yugoslavia in 1945, but was denounced by Stalin in 1948. The result was Yugoslavia broke its ties with the Soviet bloc and turned increasingly to the West. Yugoslavia being the only quasi Soviet satellite to receive aid under the "Marshall Plan." For Cyprus issue see correspondence between Marshall and Frederica, August 19t,h 1954, October 13th, 1955, February 29th, 1956, March 29th, 1956-June 30th, 1957.

As far as Greece was concerned Tito's weakening reliance on the USSR had been partly responsible for the collapse of the Communist rebellion in 1949. He had sealed his borders to the guerrillas which had cut off a vital supply route and he had returned 2000 abducted children from behind his frontiers.

I remember well as Members of the Greek Court assembled to meet the visiting head of state. We all tried to forget the past and remember Tito's friendly attitude at the end of the Communist problems. We all stood in line, properly attired in hats and gloves to be presented. Tito and his wife Yovanka arrived in the company of the King and Queen. As I was introduced I was struck by his piercing blue eyes. He looked at me closely, and I did not think it impolite to return the stare. His uniform particularly fascinated me. As it was summer he was dressed in Field Marshal's



Queen Frederica in Konitza.



white. His breast was choked with decorations, none of which I could recognise. However, he was wearing a particularly beautiful Grand Cross. The Star was saucer size, encrusted with diamonds and rubies. He told me later that Cartier had designed the decoration. He took from his pocket a small lace handkerchief. His shoes matched the white of his uniform. Altogether his appearance was stunning. He had an Imperial Austrian air about him, which reminded me of Metternich. He was followed by his wife who was very handsome, although a bit stout with rounded slavic features and a ruddy complexion. Her clothes were drab in comparison to the splendour of his uniform.

For four days there was a round of official luncheons and dinners. Frederica told Marshall about the first lunch in her letter of August 19th:

" ... An interesting experience for us has been the official State visit to us by Marshal Tito. The four days that he stayed with us were a slow evolution from reserved politeness towards a more human friendliness. You should have seen the first luncheon party at our house. It started in complete silence with Court officials looking at Communists and Communists looking at the King and Queen. It was my fate twice a day to have Tito sit next to me. He was all the time watching my husband across the table and my husband has a very contagious laugh. Tito began first to smile then slowly to grin and eventually roar with laughter. Lacking in conversation during the first meal he asked me if I liked horses. When I told him I thought them dangerous in front, dangerous behind and uncomfortable in the middle, he choked and could hardly go on eating."

That same evening a big dinner reception was held by the Government. I sat between General Balodimos, a veteran soldier who was Chief of the Military Staff of the Royal Palace and a Yugoslav General aged thirty something. The Yugoslav addressed me in broken French, telling me that he was a General in the Yugoslav Army and an old comrade in arms of Tito. I noticed that he, too, was wearing a similar Star to his leader, although smaller in size. Curious, I asked him about his decoration, and was told that it was Yugoslav. I congratulated him, because I felt it was unusual to see such a young man wearing such a fine decoration, and continued by enquiring how he had come to receive the medal. His reply was cryptic ... "Egalité-Fraternité." The battle cry of the French Revolution, meaning brotherhood and equallty. It seemed that this was not the name of a battle, but the name of the "Star".

This was too good an opportunity to miss a little quip, so I said:

"I feel sure that if you spend a few days in Greece all the ladies will want to be your "comrades", as we would like to gain similar decorations!"

General Balodimos was not amused kicked me under the table to shut me up. I was not, however, going to be silenced so easily and felt I should explain myself better to the Yugoslav:

"General Balodimos has fought in many wars against powerful enemies, has never been awarded a wonderful medal like yours!"

The remark fell on stony ground, and I decided the time had come to change the subject of conversation, and began chatting away about the beauty of Dubrovnic and Split. In fact, I talked for half an hour with little idea of what I was saying.

The dinner over, General Balodimos went up to my husband and related to him what had occurred at the table. My husband was not particularly amused and reproved me: "If I were a medieval husband I would put a muzzle on you!"

He went on to suggest that at further gatherings it would be better if I avoided the Yugoslavs and remained with my Greek friends. I did my best to follow his instructions, but it was very difficult when one of the ladies from the Embassy came over and sat next to me telling me how she had fought in the mountains against Michailovitz.[21]

She demonstrated to us how she had used guns to kill her opponents. Faced with this grim reality I said:

"How wonderful, you must be quite an example to Yugoslav women."

To my surprise she turned to me and asked me how often I had used guns and how many people I had killed or:

"Are you one of those ladies who sit around and live in luxury?"

"Not exactly," I replied. "I am trying to help Greece to bring back the kidnapped children." Again I attempted to change the conversation as I was sure I would get into trouble and once more be threatened with my husband's muzzle!

Let Queen Fredrica tell of the remainder of that visit, using her words to General Marshall in her letter of August 19th, 1954:

" ... He (Tito) was very impressed with our army and by a first class parade that was organised for him in Saloniki. As a matter of fact since then he adopted and has put in effect for his own army some of our ways of organising things. Of course security was terrific. Never have there been so many policemen in the streets as during his visit. He himself insisted in driving about in his own armoured car with our own Palace driver driving him and his own bodyguard sitting next to the driver, with my husband always at his side. Whenever we were alone we asked him the most tactless questions we could think of, trying to find out how a Communist thinks and feels. My husband asked him straight out if he were still a Communist. He said "No",

he was a "Socialist" and his country was a "Socialist State". He described to us his life in Russia[22] and that he hated Stalin, saying:

" .... he was rude and thoroughly evil. He asked him why he broke away from Russia. He explained that with the growing resistance movement, grew his own sense of responsibility towards his country, and that when he saw Stalin wanted to make him into a puppet he knew he had to break away in order to keep his and his Country's "Freedom". Talking about his private life he said he could not get on with his oldest son because he said, he was such an awful anarchist and rebel. So I told him that he must have inherited it from his father.[23] At first he was a bit doubtful how I meant it but then laughed and he was very pleased. He travelled with my husband to Salonica and on the way the new ties of friendship were further and further developed. In the end he kept on shaking my husband's hand again and again and inviting him to come to Yugoslavia any time that would suit him.

I think his visit was a great success, no matter what one's personal feelings were. They don't count anyhow. He is happy with us and we certainly will not give him any reason to doubt us. Incidentally, I had the impression that he would love to go to the States. As a matter of fact the Foreign Minister, Popovitz[24] my old friend "from last year" asked it I couldn't be indirectly helpful in that direction. I wonder if the American people are ready for such a visit. If so, then it can only be helpful. Of course nothing must go wrong from a psychological point of view, because as we all know, Field-Marshals are to be treated differently from us ordinary mortals."

Marshall replied to the Queen's letter on September 16th, 1954:

" ... Your comments on the political aspects of things European were intensely interesting, particularly as to Cyprus, but I was amused by your comment re: Field Marshal. I thought you were taking a crack at me as I have equivalent rank and once was Secretary of State."[24]

The result of the Yugoslav leader's visit to Greece were talks between himself and Prime Minister Papagos which culminated in a military alliance which was signed in Bled on 9th August 1954.

The King and Queen accepted Tito's invitation and made a State visit to Yugoslavia, arriving on 8th September 1955. She tells Marshall in her visit in her letter dated 13th October, 1955:

"The reception they gave us was terrific. It looked as if people were pleased to see us. Maybe it was a change from their everyday drudgery. We lived in the former King's Palace. I looked around the room to find signs of the old days but the furniture and pictures were all new, except for an old, thick, fat perfume bottle with a silver



King Paul and Queen Frederica in the Greek Mountains.

top that was pushed into a corner of the washstand and which I recognised as only being possible to have belonged to the Royal Family.

The kitchen was two kilometres away from the house. It provided food for our party, for Tito's household and for all the Government and the Government employees. It seems to be a public soup kitchen where caviar, champagne and other delicacies were being dished out. Our impression of the present Yugoslav rulers are that they are extremely proud of not being either under Western or Eastern influence."

In May 1956 President Heuss, Chancellor Adenauer and Foreign Minister Von Brettano along with Ludwig Erhart paid an official visit to Greece. It was remarkable to see the old enemy back within out land. It heralded the new Europe, where we all working to forge new friendships in order to construct a new Continent, culminating in the formation of the EEC, which came into being under the treaty of Rome in 1960. Conrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the new Germany was a remarkable man, but I felt Erhard was the outstanding personality of this delegation as under his guidance Germany embraced a new era of economic growth. Following the conversation between Erhard and our ministers, I was surprised at how he looked upon the German economy as a business, and his task was to bring this "company" out of bankruptcy. His was a grand vision, in stark contrast to the political blindness which hampered other politicians.

I remember the official dinner in the German Embassy, wanting to smoke a cigarette I went into a small sitting room. I was surprised on entering to see Erhard sitting in an armchair puffing away on a cigar, and two Greek Ministers of the Government sitting opposite him engaged in deep conversation. I apologised for my intrusion, but the German stood up and ushered me to a chair. They all urged me to stay and listen as their conversation was very interesting. It seemed the Greeks were lecturing the German on the mistakes he had made in his work for German economic recovery.. I was rather shocked at their presumption and tried to steer the discussion into safer waters. The Greek Ministers were quite annoyed, and in an attempt to dismiss me, declared that I knew nothing about economics. Ludwig Erhart, interrupted them saying that quite to the contrary I seemed to know a great deal. Later I laughed about the matter with the Ministers, who happened to be good friends, and I told them that I thought their remarks were very amusing, for they seemed to have forgotten that they were talking to a giant in the world of economics. Perhaps, they should have been the ones to do the listening. Like a naughty little boy he had used my comments to excuse himself from further discussion. The Queen heard about our encounter and pulled me to one side, saying:

"Everyone has the right to their own opinions, it's the way to exchange ideas."

In spite of all the to-ing and fro-ing whilst entertaining heads of state and visiting other countries, she never lost sight of her work for TM fund. In the

Conference held on the 26th of June 1957 at Zappion Megaron, in Athens, the Queen recognised the contribution of the Fund's staff and said in reference to the work of the Organisation in the Decade 1947-57:[25]

"As you all know, my husband and I trust not only in the love which exists in our soul, but also in that which radiates from the love of God. You my dear fellow workers as well as the Greek people, are the best proof that this faith stems from the truth.

Looking back on the last ten years many will say that these were hard years. For my husband and myself they were significant. This was a period during, which, although tainted by strife, crimes and destruction, the soul of our people developed constructively, through their faith in us.

This happened also through the immensely benevolent labour of love between all Hellenes. Unenlightened people seek to judge us superficially, whereas we judge you by your noble and creative souls ... TM Welfare would never have succeeded without your sincere affection, support and co-operation. The young generation, who have enjoyed the fruits of your labour will reward your faith and hard work by showing their respect for you and their love for Greece.

The Fund was founded during the darkest hours of modern history. It appeared like a message of hope and love by the Hellenes for the Hellenes. I know that you, who shouldered the weight of this task will always remain devoted members of this body.

To you my beloved Lady delegates of TM Welfare Fund, tireless members of the Committee, heads of every department and all of you who have helped in the carrying out of our task, have done so with such enthusiasm, you who so unflaggingly gave the best of yourselves in your work for this foundation, I express my deep gratitude. Gratitude not only for what you have created, but also for what yourselves are. The Welfare Fund has been a real blessing for our people, and this is due to all of you.

Let us thank God, because however, poor our people might be, however miserable, however exhausted, they have always kept a steadfast, constructive and sincere outlook. I hope you are all aware of our deep, strong gratitude which can only be expressed through our love for you."

The Queen's thanks and recognition of our achievements were echoed and summed up in a speech made by Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis on behalf of his Government:

" ... The Vassiliki Pronia has followed step by step the phases of our history over



King Paul and Queen Frederica with Mrs. Alexandra Mela.



Konitza honours its Queen.

the past ten years. At the time of the guerrllla war there were 52 Paidopolis in existence, and the Fund saved 23,000 children in order to return them safe and well to their families when the insurrection ended. At the end of the war the time came for peace and reconstruction, the Paidopolis restricted themselves to caring for orphans and unprotected children, at the same time it focussed its attention on the moral and educational welfare of the children as they returned to their homes.

The work of the three vocational schools of the Vassiliki Pronia is known to all. We are aware too, of the values instilled in the children, during their stay as borders in these Children's Towns. The children took away with them an enhanced standard of living, and took it back with them to the outside world. The Paidopolis became centres for a campaign to improve living standards in the villages. The same task was also accomplished by the 32 Field Groups located in the mountainous regions of Euritania, Laconia and Messina.

The Vassiliki Pronia using its own resources and incorporating the help of the local population, was engaged in productive work to the benefit of each village it served. I mention only a few of the projects as an example. The Vassiliki Pronia planted 499,235 trees, grafted approximately 370,000 trees and created 74 horticultural nurseries. Furthermore, and again with the help of locals who were only too pleased to be of assistance, the Fund laid down 41,412 metres of piping to bring water to the villages, and built 330 reservoirs, tanks and wells. The contribution made by Vassiliki Pronia to the dairy industry is most remarkable.

I am not trying to describe the work of the Fund, a task which has already been done by others more qualified than myself, but to point out that Vassiliki Pronia, quite correctly adapted its mission to the needs of the country. It pursued its aims as best it could and within the framework of the parameters laid down for its existence.

I would like to praise the fact that the Vassiliki Pronia worked throughout this period in close cooperation with the State. Many times it helped the State by serving State projects that coincided with its own.

Even more important for me is the fact that Vassiliki Pronia wherever it acted, thanks to the self sacrifice of its voluntary staff, and others, managed to instill a sense of initiative in the village communities. All the work that has been accomplished is a product of cooperation between the inhabitants and the Vassiliki Pronia. It gave me deep satisfaction to hear that wherever a project took place that was of benefit to the local population, they gave their services free, whilst the Fund provided them with their basic needs.

I would like to praise the fact that the Fund works stringently within a strict budget, enjoying the benefits of private enterprise. The percentage of general costs

amounts to only 1.5% of the budget. Thus we see the initiative of the individual assisting rural Greeks achieve their economic and cultural goals.

This successful effort, which is of advantage to all in so many ways, would not have accomplished it aims, if the Vassiliki Pronia had not managed to inspire faith and enthusiasm wherever it appeared. We have to salute this faith and enthusiasm of all those working within the framework of Vassiliki Pronia. However, it would not be fair if we did not admit this primary element, this national and creative breath, stems primarily from the King and Queen, who for ten uninterrupted years have devoted their strength and soul to this work, either working at the centre to coordinate and manage the entire movement of the Vassiliki Pronia, or travelling to the remotest village of the Greek countryside, in order to guide and encourage all those working towards this superb goal.

The Government cannot claim to have established Vassiliki Pronia. All political parties have supported and assisted it for the past ten years. Therefore, the honour of its existence belongs to all the political world of the Country. However, this Government has the obligation of assessing the work done, and to express to the King and the Queen and everyone involved in Vassiliki Pronia, the gratitude of the Greek people, in thanks for what they have given the country in this difficult period."

Constantine Karamanlis

NOTES

1. See letter of Marshall to Frederica, 10/7/1950
   See letter of Frederica to Marshall, 20/7/1950
2. See Frederica to Marshall, 21/12/1950
   See letter Frederica to Marshall, 8/6/ 1951
3. Elias Venezis. Widely translated Greek author. See "Beyond the Aegean" (1941.1955)
4. Pavlos Melas, a distinguished officer killed in action
5. Jan Smuts 1870-1950. He succeeded Botha as South African Prime Minister In 1919. He played an important role is securing peace in Ireland, and helped resolve the Ruhr Crisis. Resigned as PM in 1924. Published Holism and Evolution in 1926 and Africa and some World Problems in 1930. Minister of Justice in Herzog Government 1933-39. Prime Minister 1939-48. Author of preamble of United Nations Charter.
6. The name for modern day Ukraine
7. Mrs. S. Venizelos, wife of Sophocles Venizelos member of the Liberal party and ex-Premier of Greece.
8. Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of King George VI of Britain.
9. Lord Halifax former foreign secretary of Chamberlain Government. British Ambassador to U.S.. 1940-1946.
10. See Frederica to Marshall May 7th, 1952.
11. Frederica to Marshall 26th June, 1952
12. Marshall to Frederica 1st August, 1952
13. Stelio Hourmouzios, "No Ordinary Crown", p.263

14. See: Frederica to Marshall, May 27th, 1953
Marshall to Frederica, June 9th, 1953
Marshall to Frederica, Dec 10th, 1953
15. See Stelio Hourmozios. "No Ordinary Crown", p.262.
16. Ibid.
17. Capodistria, Count John Corfu born foreign Minister of Tsar Alexander I. Greek Prime Minister. Assassinated in Nafplion in 1831, by Mavromichalis family.
18. See Stelio Hourmozios: N.O.C.
19. P.S. Rumours were saying that Eden opposed Churchill's opinion as always, being pro-Turkish.
20. See Letter Frederica to Marshall August 19th, 1954.
21. Michailovitz. Guerrilla opponent of Tito, and purportedly assassinated by him.
22. Tito had been captured by the Russians in 1917, and later joined the Red Army.
23. See Frederica to Marshall, 27th May, 1953
24. See Marshall to Frederica, 16th September 1954.
25. Taken from Vassiliki Pronia. [Their Majesties' Fund. Record of the Decade 1947-57. 26th June, 1957].

CHAPTER SEVEN

"The Isles of Greece..."

"The isles of Greece, The isles of Greece
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose, and Phoebus sprung
Eternal summer gilds them yet
But all, except their sun is set..."

Lord Byron.

In 1954, the shipowner Mr. Eugenides named one of his ocean liners after Queen Frederica, and naturally Frederica was asked to launch the vessel. Shipping tradition dictates that the person who launches a ship be given a present in return for her services. Naturally, Eugenides approached the Queen asking if she would accept a gift, and that he had a beautiful diamond brooch in mind. The Queen asked him if she could think the matter over for a while. She then approached the King and told him that instead of accepting the broach she had another idea in mind. She told the King that her idea would enable Greece to benefit from Eugenides' generosity. Many of the visitors who had been coming to Greece prior to the war, had not returned in peace time. Instead they now visited Spain and Italy. She proposed that instead of giving her the expensive brooch, the shipowner would instead put a ship at her disposal, and with this ship she would organise a royal cruise of the islands. She would then invite members of other European royal families as well as well known personalities. Her argument went that if these people were to come to Greece, it would immediately give the country a smart image abroad, and that would attract a spate of new visitors in the future.

King Paul thought the idea was excellent as did Prime Minister Papagos. The



King Paul on the front lines.

King telephoned my husband, Sophocles, and asked him to pass on her request to Eugenides. The old gentleman thoroughly agreed with the Queen's sentiments, and arranged to charter from Marcos Nomikos, the cruise liner "Agamemnon" for the sum of $20,000. The cruise took place in the summer of 1954.

The distinguished passenger list manifest included Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, Don Juan Prince of the Asturias, King Simeon of Bulgaria, ex-King Umberto of Italy and his beautiful daughters and many other notables of Royal Rank. It was aboard this cruise that Prince Don Juan Carlos, later King of Spain, met his future bride, Princess Sofia of Greece.

Although the concept behind this cruise was one of magnanimity towards Greece, it also had a personal side to it, as she explained to General Marshall in her letter of August 19th, 1954:

"... Now we are off to Naples to collect about a hundred members of our very large European family for a sightseeing cruise around the Greek islands. My husband and I thought of this idea because me meet family only at funerals and after all one can't laugh at funerals. We wanted our children to meet the young generation such as the young King of Bulgaria (Simeon) who is 17 years old, the Crown Prince of Italy, Spain (Don Juan Carlos, Prince of the Asturias), France, Holland and the German royal families. One never knows what the future has in store for all of them and if they meet friends from childhood, they and their countries can only profit from it. We and their parents will renew old ties that have been interfered with since the war...."[1]

Nothing on the cruise was left to chance, as Frederica planned everything down to the tiniest detail. I still remember the performance at the ancient theatre of Epidaurus; which was specially renovated for the occasion. The performance marked the re-birth of Greek tragedy in the country. The play performed was "Hippolytus" by Euripides, much to the delight and enjoyment of the audience.

A team of archaeologists and historians accompanied the cruise. These experts would accompany the visitors on their shore visits and give lectures on the culture of the appropriate Hellenistic periods whilst aboard ship.

The royal cruise marked the beginning for the return of tourism to Greece. The shipowner Stavros Niarchos recognised how successful Queen Frederica's idea had been, sought to imitate it himself. Through the well-known socialite Elsa Maxwell, he arranged to invite bankers, industrialists and members of the "jet set" to join his cruise. Again this improved Greece's overseas image and paved the way for the package tourists of the 60's..



Lilika Papanicolaou next to King Paul and behind Queen Frederica in the Grammos Mountains of Northern Greece.



The Queen at the Battle of Konitza in 1948 and, eleven years later, still fulfilling her duties in 1959.



THE OATH

"Constantine,
God has graciously destined you to reign over this
gallant and noble nation of ours.

This Divine favour granted to you is an outstanding mark of honour and a legacy of great responsibility. As from this day you will be my helper in the endeavour to further the progress and well-being of my people.

I am confident that your love of the Greek people, equal as it is to my own deep affection, will bring you as much happiness as it brings to me, In paying the price of their glorious history and in enduring the consequences of their age-long struggles, even to this day, in defence of mankind, the Greek people have not as yet been able to develop their capabilities to the full and to achieve the standard of well-being to which they are justly entitled. For this very reason they deserve every mark of affection and regard and every act of sacrifice on your part.

Be a just, kind and indefatigable worker for the advancement and glory of Greece. Uphold steadfastly the democratic principles of our institutions and the constitutional liberties of our people.

Devote your life to the happiness of your country; there is no task, more noble nor more important than this.

Remember always that it is preferable that the King should suffer than that the suffering should fall on the nation and the country.

Endeavour to show yourself worthy of the Greek soldier, whose leader you will be in the future. When the time comes you will take your place at the Head of the Greek Armed Forces."

The bearers of a heroic and glorious tradition. Keep them devoted to duty and battleworthy, the guardians of our traditions, respected by our friends and feared by our enemies, the priceless jewel of a proud nation. May they never be forced to strike.

Be the protector and guardian of our Holy Church.
Draw your strength from the love between You and your people.
Redress offence by pardon,
Discord by unity,
Error by truth,
Doubt by faith,

I pray that you and my people may know days of glory in the noble struggle for

progress and civilisation. May God Almighty make you an instrument of peace, and always keep guard over Greece and over you, Constantine, my son."

On the 28th of June 1958 at a ceremony held at the Trophy Room of the Parliament building, to celebrate his reaching the age of 18, and thus having attained his majority under Article 42 of the Constitution, the Crown Prince was commissioned an officer of the most junior rank in all three Armed Services. Immediately after he had given the prescribed oath to the King, as Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Armed Forces, the King addressed his son in the words that opened this chapter. The speech was composed by King Paul, in an effort that had taken him many hours of effort and emotional energy to complete.

When Constantine took the oath that June day, he had just recently celebrated his eighteenth birthday, and his father was 57 years old. The King had been catapulted onto the throne with scant preparation on the death of his brother. The King was determined that his son would be better prepared for the task that lay before him.

From the outset Paul felt that his son's education should not be private and exclusive. From a small primary school in Psychiko, Constantine went to the Greek private school of Anavryta. The Boarding School had been founded by the King and the Queen as part of their work for TM Fund. The school was not very large, but the Crown Prince 's classmates came from all walks of life amongst them were sons of officers and the professional and business classes. Today many of the old boys from the school have achieved prominent positions in life. Some are professors in Columbia and other universities.

On leaving school he completed his military service in all three branches of the forces. In the meantime he was tutored by several University professors among them was Constantine Tsasos who coached him in Constitutional Law. Tsasos later became President of the Country.

Constantine never attended University, but Frederica jokingly claimed that her son's education was enhanced by sitting in on meetings between his father and others when state business was conducted. The King had introduced a custom when his son reached 11, that he should be present in his audience room. The boy would sit behind his father listening to what was being said, but saying nothing himself. As Constantine grew older the King would occasionally interrupt his discussions to explain points to him.

The Queen continued her work with the Vassiliki (TM Fund) Pronia, as this she considered to be her life's endeavour. She turned her attention to sports in the Paedopolis. From 1951 she concentrated on building sports fields at the centres, and the orphans and homeless children were coached in games. Two competitions were organised in northern Greece, and children form the Paedopolis were encouraged to



The Greek community in Makronissos joined the National Army against communism.



The Queen's arrival.



The Queen's determination – "by hook or by crook" she will get there.



The Queen and her beloved children.

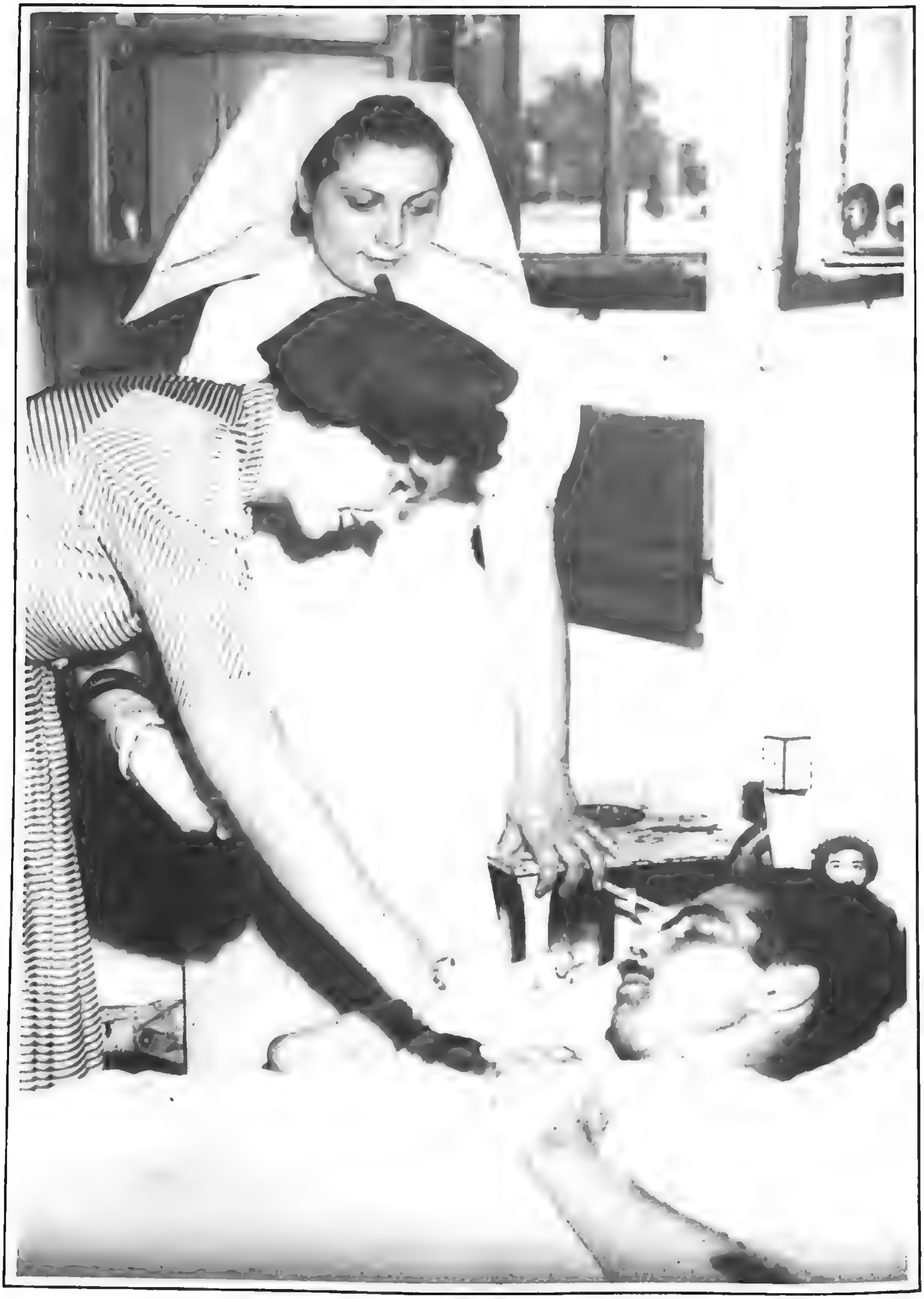
compete. The "Akritia" and the "Constantinia" were the names of the events which took place annually at the end of May. The venue would change each year, with a different Paedopolis playing host on each occasion. The King and Queen would themselves attend. Both boys and girls would participate. The girls would dress up in their traditional costumes and perform the dances of the region.

Another of the Queen's schemes was designed to produce employment for village women and girls. At the same time the concept was to protect traditional handicrafts that were threatened with extinction as the 20th Century progressed. The art of colourful embroidery was under threat. Mrs Evan Petrousi took this project under her wing. Designs found on vases and frescoes, which dated back to Minoan times, were carefully copied in Crete, as were the mosaics of Macedonia and Attica along with the Byzantine motifs found on the islands, all were collected together and sent to the villages, where the women had a pattern to copy in their embroidery and tapestry work. Hence a cultural tradition was preserved and work was provided for the women in the rural areas of the north west.

Travel within the country had been badly hampered over the war years. Gradually as peace materialised communications began once gain to improve. Queen Frederica felt that the children in the "Paedopolis" should have the opportunity to see other parts of their native land. So she set about implementing exchange programmes between the different "Children's Towns". In order to facilitate the visits it was necessary to approach the Central Committee, under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Athens for funding. This was duly forthcoming. Trips were organised to historical sites such as the Acropolis in Athens, to Pella the ancient capital of Alexander the Great in Macedonia, to Delphi and to Olympia. The tours were accompanied by experienced guides who were able to explain the historical significance of each place visited on the itinerary. Without doubt these trips contributed greatly to the education of the children.

A friend of mine, Mrs Close, wife of the Director of the British Council, was wandering around the Plaka one day when she found herself completely lost. Looking around the warren streets which form the area, she was surprised to hear a voice behind her. She turned around to find a woman wearing a headscarf, who addressed her in perfect English, asking if she could be of any assistance. She was even more astounded when she realized her inquirer was none other than Queen Frederica.

Queen Frederica often wandered around the city in this incognito fashion. On her walks she came to realise that there was misery and despondency to be found in the poorer parts of the city. She told us all to go out and see for ourselves. The result of our perambulations in deepest and darkest Athens was the formation of the "Urban Centres". These centres provided youth centres, provided small libraries, and each centre had a nurse to administer to the medical needs of the district. Teachers were there to impart literary skills and teach mothers and housewives the basics of domestic science.



Frederica visiting the wounded soldiers who keep her photograph by their bedside.



The Queen dancing with the youngsters.

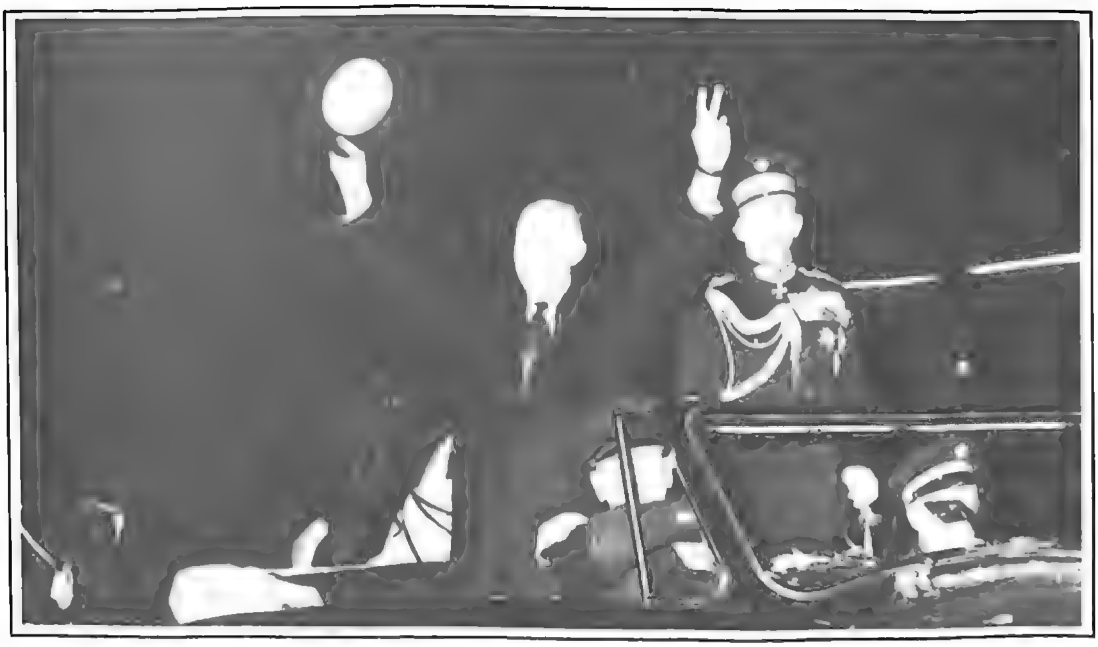


The Queen in front of a Children Home carrying a young one.



King Paul and Queen Frederica amongst the villagers.





King Paul with President Eisenhower.



The royal couple is greeted at the White House by President and Mrs. Eisenhower. In welcoming Their Majesties, the President said: "I count it an opportunity and a rare distinction to welcome you as guests of our nation. For Mrs. Eisenhower and me, it is a particularly happy opportunity that we may repay something of the hospitality which you so graciously extended to us two years ago in Athens. May your stay here be an enjoyable one and may you find as much pleasure in our house as we did in yours.



After placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, the King stands at attention.

The Homer Iosifoglou family donated a house in Sygrou Street, so that girls from "Paedopolis" and without homes could stay whilst studying at the University in Athens. A psychiatric clinic was established in a house in Paleon Phaliron, to take care of children disturbed by their experiences of war.

For all this and much more, Queen Frederica received on behalf of TM Fund the Silver Medal of the Academy of Athens in 1958. In the award ceremony on December 7th, the President of the Academy said:

"The Greek people have never stopped surrounding their Kings with feelings of love. In an expression of the deep appreciation of the royal work, it is the decision of the **ACADEMY** of **ATHENS** to award in honourable distinction the **SILVER MEDAL** to Their Majesties' Fund in recognition of the services it has offered, in its work of social benefit and welfare in improving the standard of living of the country, especially in its work with children, and the assistance given to the Government for its post war reconstruction work. This honour of official recognition is given by the highest educational Institute of the country and belongs principally to Her Majesty Queen Frederica."

The School of Medicine of the Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki, awarded:

"Queen Frederica Queen of the Hellenes for her social work "Honoribus Cause", Doctor of Medicine". On 26th October 1963.

In the degree granting ceremony the Dean said:

"Be it the admittance of patients to hospital, the apportioning of welfare funds, helping needy students, finding work for the unemployed...or indeed generally lightening the burden of the less fortunate members of the community. She was always there taking a keen and energetic interest."

In the Queen's letter to George Marshall dated June 30th, 1957 she wrote:

"My children are all well and nearly grown up. My son is busy with his military duties and will become an officer next year. He has to do service in all three arms. Now he has to join the army for manoeuvres and later the navy. Although he has much less free time than other boys of his age, he does it all without complaint and with a great sense of duty. May God grant that it will always be like that.

Maybe next year I will find time for a private visit to the United States. It will be wonderful seeing you and your wife again.

With my best wishes...
F.R."

The visit was postponed until the end of 1958, and on the 9th October in reply to the Queen's cable requesting that she should visit him, General Marshall replied:

"Frankly, I am in poor health and, in all probability, I will be in Pinehurst at that time. I am most anxious that you not tax your energy nor burden your schedule with such a lengthy trip. Besides, I am so weak that I am sure you would find me a poor conversationalist.."

The Queen made her private visit to the United States at the end of 1958, accompanied by her children Prince Constantine and Princess Sophie. During the visit they were guests of "The United States Atomic Energy Commission."

They were invited to lunch at the AEC, and the Queen was delighted to meet the important scientists there gathered.

She had a great respect for men of science. Allen Dulles invited her watch a rocket launch. She was very excited by this and told me when she returned to Greece, that she wanted, if it were possible to be one of the first women in space. She tried to explain to me the colours when the motors ignited and the rocket started slowly to lift from its pad, I was flattered to hear that those colours were similar to those in my paintings.

She was also delighted that on the trip she met a lot of Greek scientists, men like George Papanicolaou and his wife, Machi (neé Mavrogeni) who helped him discover the papsmear test, along with Professor Ypsilantis who won the Nobel Prize for work on the "Ante-proton" and Mr. Cotzias (son of the ex-mayor of Athens in Metaxas' time) who discovered a medicine for treating Parkinson's disease.

When she came back to Athens she was so excited to have found such prominent scientists from Greece, and boasted to everybody of how the small country of Greece had produced men of a world stature.

The Russians put their first satellite in orbit in 1957, and Frederica turned her interests to nuclear physics, she was particularly interested in the work of Werner Von Braun. She tried to understand his theories, and saw that there was a connection between physics and the philosophy of metaphysics. The "Oneness" between matter and power, was energy and had a similar relationship to the body and soul. She shares some of these thoughts with Marshall in her letter written between October 28th and November 6th, 1957:

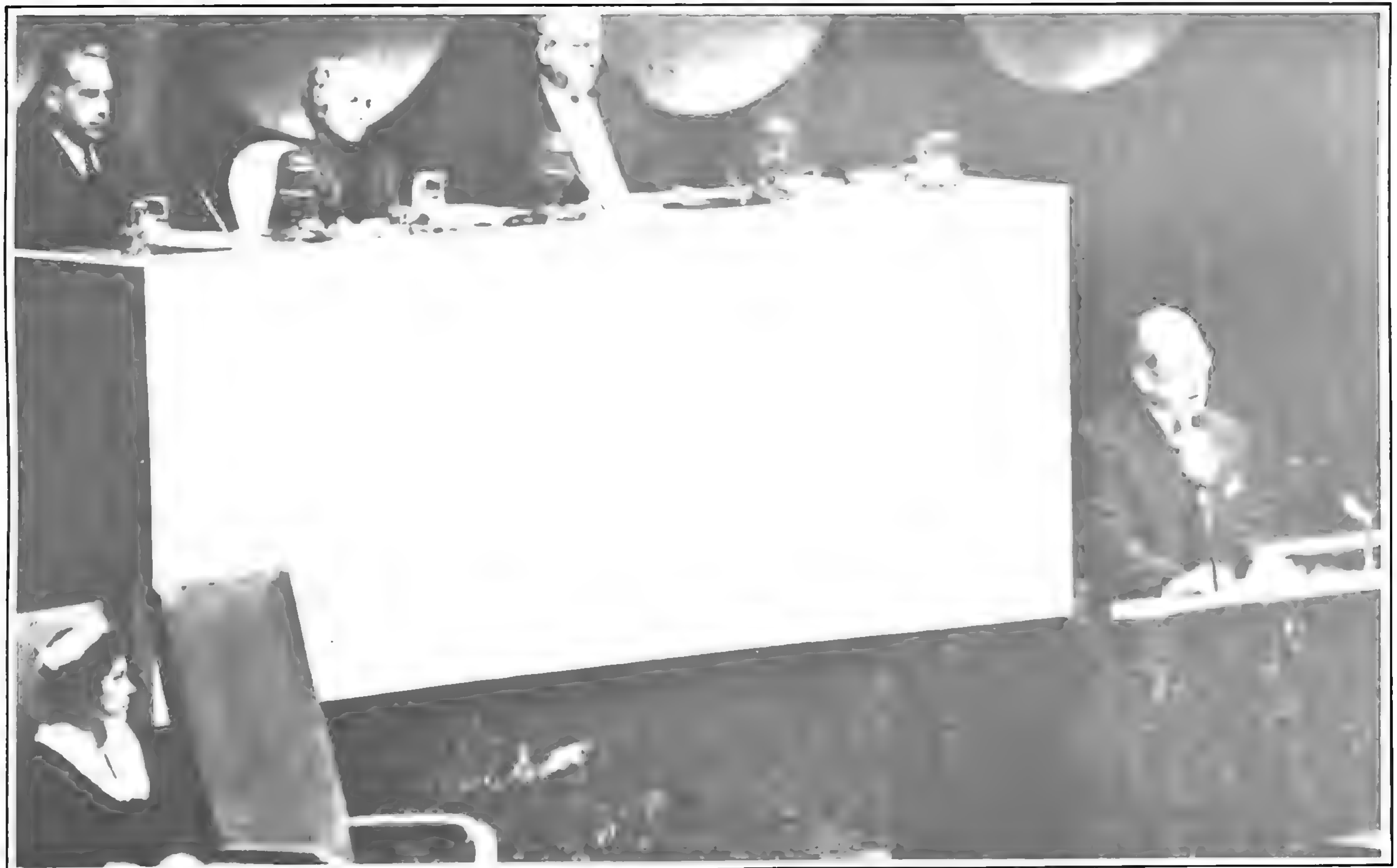
"... I look at the mountains. They seem so real. Yet science tells me that matter as such does not really exist. My body is not really me (what a pleasant thought!). The mountains and me, being made up, of atoms, and all atoms can be divided and split into energy or waves; well then it seems to me that I and the mountains are made



Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Mrs. Dulles greet the royal couple as they arrive at historic Anderson House as guests of honour at a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Dulles.



After receiving a 21-gun salute, His Majesty inspects the Marine Honour Guard at the United States Naval Academy.



In addressing a special plenary meeting of the United Nations, King Paul said: "I am happy to represent my nation amongst you today at this brilliant international assembly. As such, I am proud to stand before you in this temple of freedom and peace."

up of the same stuff which is energy or waves. Waves again are constituents of mind, so matter, the mountains and myself are mind, indestructible infinite mind. God is all mind. I am part of his all mind, like the little finger is part of the hand. I expect that is what Jesus meant when he said: The Father and I, we are One. matter is mind and mind is God. My true self is the unseen part of me which is me infinite and eternal as God because it is part of God.

The Scientists have certainly without knowing or wanting proved to me God's inner unity with God.... After all it is the Scientists who with their knowledge have proved to me that my body is only an appearance of truth and not the truth. They dissolved it in front of my eyes into mind. I did not do it ... I have talked this over with many atomic physicists. Most of them have never thought of the philosophic aspect of their work and have not had the flexibility of mind to do so. They are too specialised in their own field to draw conclusions affecting a different field other than their own technical one. But quite a few of them agree with my nonsense.

You see in this letter I did not bother you with politics but with philosophy. You must blame it on the result of a high fever, the Russian satellite and a beautiful view!"

Werner Von Braun was invited by the royal couple to visit Greece, and during the stay had long conversations with the Queen. She was fascinated with all aspects of manned space flight and inquired if she might go as a passenger on a space probe, when the time was right. Unfortunately no such opportunity arose in her life time.

Some people have described the years 1955-65 as the new Golden Decade. A country with a population of eight and a half million produced outstanding personalities in every field, showing that the spirit of ancient Greece was still alive. We have already spoken of the scientists. In opera there was Maria Callas, in music the famous conductor Dimitri Mitropoulos, the two Nobel Prize poets Elytis and Seferis. In literature there was the renowned author Kazantzakis. Katina Paxinou the famous actress won an Oscar. Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hadzidakis are world renowned composers. In song Nana Mouskouri and Melina Mercouri have both distinguished themselves at home and abroad. John Papadimitriou discovered Vravrona and parts of Mycenae in the field of archaeology, and Professor Marinatos excavated on the island of Santorini whilst professor Andronicos worked on the site of Philippi in Macedonia. In the world of business Aristotle Onassis received world fame, and worked hard in the world of philanthropy. The millionaire shipowner also created the country's national airline, "Olympic Airways".

The royal family divided their time between the Royal palace in Athens and their country home in Tatoi.

The original palace was built by King Otto in the centre of Athens. The huge building now serves as the Parliament building. The Kings moved to a smaller palace

during the reign of King Constantine I. After his accession in 1913 the King elected to remain in his old home, the palace of the Crown Prince, and thus relinquished the older residence to the Government. The new palace is in Herodes Atticus Street, near Zappion. It was built at the turn of the century by the Greek-German architect Ziller. It was constructed at a time when modern amenities were basic, and the building was extensively renovated at the time of the visit of the Emperor of Ethiopia in the 1920's, at which juncture a modern plumbing and heating system was installed. Paul and Frederica would spend time there when they had official duties to attend in the city. Otherwise they would slip away to their country house, "Tatoi" in Dekelia. In the nineteenth century the property had passed into the hands of the Scarlatos Soutsos family, and with the aid of Queen Olga's dowry, King George I bought the property with the intention of using it as a summer residence. The family lived in the old Soutsos house for about ten years. In 1880 work commenced on a larger building adjacent to the old house. The royal villa as it is now stands was completed in 1888. It is the replica of an English-style country house near Peterhof in the Gulf of Finland, which once belonged to Tsar Alexander II. The same architect, Ziller, who built the palace in Athens drew up the plans in accordance with the wishes of Queen Olga. A separate house was built close to the main residence as a home for Crown Prince Constantine. This house and another one along with several outbuildings were destroyed by fire in 1916. Tatoi is situated 1,600 feet above sea level lying in the foothills of Mount Parnes, 15 miles north of Athens. There is a small chapel in the grounds, where the royal family would attend evening mass during every Friday of Lent. The sovereigns and princes of the Royal House of Greece are all buried in the grounds of Tatoi.

It was the custom of the royals to spend two months each summer on the Ionian island of Corfu. The Corfu palace of St. Michael and St. George, designed by the architect Whitmore, was presented by the British Government to King George I, in 1864. It is a beautiful building with a high Doric portico. A series of figurines on the front of the building are representative of each of the Ionian islands.Cephalus symbolizes Cephalonia, Pegasus Lefkas, Zakinthos Zante, Odysseus Ithaka, a trident is representative of Paxos, a Dolphin Cythera and a rudderless ship, Corfu itself. This palace, however, was only used for official functions.

The villa of "Mon Repos" was the summer residence of the royal family. The house was built between 1828-31 by the then High Commissioner for their Ionian Islands, Sir Frederick Adam. The house became property of the royal family after the cession of the islands to Greece in 1864.

The house itself is a simple country villa built in neo-classical style so popular in the British Regency period.

"Mon Repos" commands a magnificent view over the Corfu Channel and is surrounded by a wonderful garden containing local and exotic trees and shrubs. The



The King and Queen leave Saint Sophia Cathedral after services on their last day in Los Angeles.

house belonged to Prince Andrew, the son of King George I and husband of Princess Alice. Interestingly, Alice was the sister of Lord Louis Mountbatten, and it was here that Prince Philip was born on June 10th, 1921. King George II bought the house from Prince Andrew in 1938.

Paul and Frederica used to spend their summers sailing, swimming and filling their home with friends and relatives, and on occasions semi-official guests. Marshall Tito was one of these guests. As the guest rooms were too small to accommodate Tito and his party, a small annexe had to be built. Frederica alludes to this visit in a letter to Marshall dated June 30th 1957:

"... He was staying with us last year at Corfu as a private guest, at the time Nasser took over the Suez Canal. His opinion of Nasser is not very good, but he thought Nasser would get away with it."

Another beautiful palace stands on the island. Thatis Achelleion, near the town of Gastourian. The palace was built for the Empress Elizabeth of Austria (Sissi), wife of Francis Joseph. Her only son Rudolph, upon whom great hopes centred was one of the principal figures in the drama of Mayerling. He had developed a deep and passionate relationship with the beautiful Baroness Mary Vetsera. On January 30, 1889 the pair were found shot dead at Rudolph's hunting lodge of Mayerling, outside Vienna. The Habsburgs tried to hush the tragedy up, but it is now generally accepted that the Crown Prince shot his lover and then himself in desperation after receiving orders form the Emperor, his father, to break off the liaison. His mother spent her later days in Greece because of illness, and in association with her Greek professor, Dr. Christomanos built the palace of Achellion in honour of Achilles, the hero of the Trojan Wars. The palace was later bought by Kaiser Wilhelm II. The walls are covered in stunning murals, and the Kaiser left a touch or two of his own. To remind us of his military extravagance he had a large saddle in his study, which was his preferred seating place.

The royal palace flung its door open to the world. One reception followed another. There would be monthly dinner parties for the ambassadors and diplomats of the foreign community. The Greeks were not forgotten, however, and receptions were held for prominent people such as academicians, members of the Government, politicians, professors of the universities and others taken from different spheres of life.

The King was an accomplished pianist with a deep appreciation of the music of Beethoven and Bach. The famous Greek pianist Gina Bachauer would often come to the palace to give recitals. Yehudi Menuhin was another visitor. The youngest daughter of the King and Queen, Princess Irene, was once accompanied by Bachauer in a piano recital they gave together at the "Grande Bretagne", hotel in Athens.



The Greek Monarchs meet Marilyn Monroe, movie star, who is introduced by Spyros P. Skouras (on the Queen's right), President of Twentieth Century-Fox.

Family life in the royal Household was not that different to that of an ordinary middle-class family in Athens. True, the dinners and receptions were very grand, but day to day life was surprisingly simple.

The King was a devoutly Orthodox believer in the Church. Members of the family and court had to follow and observe the very strict Lenten fast. During Holy Week itself, the small chapel at Tatoi, being too small, the grand ballroom in the Athens palace was transformed into a church. All had to attend masses twice a day. It was not uncommon to see members of the congregation fainting during these services, due to the strictures of fasting. Prince Constantine and the other royal children often passed out in this way. During the whole of Holy Week all the ladies of the royal family as well as the Court would dress in black. On Maundy Thursday the dress changed to white, and all the men would forgather wearing an official military uniform for those thus entitled, while the civilians wore morning dress. Princess Alice would appear in her grey nun's habit covering her head with a grey veil.

I can still hear King Paul's deep voice reciting the Eucharist after having received the sacrament:

"I thank you God that You dignified me, your humble and unworthy servant to take your Holy Communion...."

In the evening the Maundy Thursday mass would take place. The King and Queen and the congregation, again dressed in black. Whilst paying homage to the cross all would kneel and touch the ground with their foreheads. It was remarkable to see the King, over six foot six in height prostrating himself in this way. On Good Friday the ladies donned black veils of mourning to attend the mass of the Holy Sepulchre, when the church would be decorated with white and mauve lilacs. The flowers represented alpha and omega, or the beginning and the end. White representing the colour of light and mauve, or violet, being the last colour in the spectrum visible to the human eye.

On Holy Saturday or the eve of Easter, the Mass of Resurrection commenced at midnight, and lasted two and a half hours. All the ladies wore long white dresses. Our jewellery comprised golden egg necklaces and bracelets. The whole mass was very glamorous. After the mass a huge buffet was served in the palace dining-room, and everyone fell upon it with alacrity, after the many days of fasting. The centre-piece of the buffet would be whole lambs roasted on a spit. This dish is called "Lamb a la Palkar", in memory of of the dark days of the Turkish occupation, when to escape the anger of the Turkish overlords, Greek would hide in the mountains, and roast lambs over open fires to feed themselves.

Another custom was the clinking together of the red painted boiled eggs, which are very much part of customary Greek Orthodox Easter. The colour red used in



Happy "Return Home" from the U.S.A. – Sofia and Irene welcome warmly the King and Queen.



Happy Days – Queen and King.

dyeing the eggs has a history deep in legend. An old lady carrying eggs in her apron was told by a passer-by in the streets of Jerusalem told that Christ had arisen. The old lady was so taken aback that she said if that were true her eggs would change colour and become red. Easter is the main festival in the Gregorian calender, whilst Christmas is the principal festival in the Justinian counterpart The festival in the Greek royal household was attended by many relatives from across Europe. People like Princess Marina Duchess of Kent, her sister Princess Olga of Yugoslavia, Prince George and his wife Marie Bonaparte were often among the worshippers at those services in the Athens palace.

Frederica shared her husband's strict beliefs and in a taped interview with Stelio Hourmouzios said:

"Many young people are becoming intellectually minded, and the Church doesn't satisfy them any more, as it doesn't keep pace with modern development, so people are leaving the Church. If the Church itself would only think deeper they would find new words that explain the old truth. Most of the young people are leaving the Church and are trying to find their own solution. They go into Existentialism or to any other mania. They simply lose their sense of stability. Thank God our three children are completely stable.... The unseen self is part of God, it is our real immortality. By loving the unseen in each other, we love God.... Through the "Oneness" of love comes a deep understanding of one's love for others, for my family, my friends, for Greece, for the Greek people, the mountains, the flowers, the sea, the birds and nature in general. The "unseen" love the "unseen" and is loved by it.... I go so far as to say that art is only beautiful if it expresses the "unseen" unity between God and nature. Any other kind of art is not beautiful, and it does not express the truth. Truth and beauty are different names for One God."

"I have finished the work which,
Thou gavest me to do."

These two lines from the Gospel of St. John appear on the headstone of King Paul's grave at Tatoi. They aptly sum up his attitude to his life and work. He did not see himself as a proud King, but as a humble servant of God, who was simply fulfilling his duties. He was born to the job, and life a missionary had to discharge his duties the best he could. Although very tall, he was by no means pompous. He spurned military escorts and police protection feeling that he was discharging the duties given him by God and God, himself would chose the moment that the King left this earth.

I was always surprised at the King's humility. I remember, one evening during dinner he told me that he had passed a very difficult afternoon. The Prime Minister, Constantine Karamanlis, had been to see him in a very agitated state: the Prime Minister had shouted and screamed at the King during their audience. I was amazed

at the breach of manners, and said so to King Paul. Paul smiled and said, he had not been upset, to listen to these rantings was just part of his job. Later that evening, I commented on Karamanlis's complete lack of manners, and was told by Sophocles that the man was renowned for his lack of politeness, as he was over forty it was too late for him to change his ways. The King behaved like a prelate, or perhaps an ascetic, claiming that really all he needed was a small loin cloth to cover his body and a bowl of vegetables to eat. Incidentally, the King was a strict vegetarian.

In October 1955 Prime Minister Papagos lay on his death bed. He had been very sick for several months, and there was no effective leadership, which put the King in a difficult constitutional position. On Thursday 4th October 1955, the old Field-Marshal died, as a result the Government submitted its resignation. Queen Frederica wrote to Marshall about those troubled times in her letter of October 13th, 1955:

Athens, October 13th, 1955

... Within a few hours my husband appointed a young self-made man from Macedonia Prime Minister of Greece. In order to help him along he gave him also the right to dissolve Parliament should he fail to get a vote of confidence.

Mr. Karamanlis, the current Prime Minister, was an extremely successful minister in the Papagos government. The effect on the country was like champagne. Within seven hours a new government was formed, sworn in and Parliament recalled. In the meantime there was a terrible struggle by some ambitious members of the majority party, to have the King's decision reversed by a vote of no confidence.

The result of the vote (12th October) in Parliament was 200 for Karamanlis and 77 against, which came as a complete justification of the King's action and was the result of tremendous pressure of public opinion on the members of Parliament. Since then we sleep soundly again at night....

Karamanlis is a man who says what he thinks. He is very direct in all his actions. He will take the responsibility for his own actions as well as of his own mistakes. The Army is extremely pleased with the solution and my husband also asked the Prime Minister to keep the Ministry of National Defence for himself."

My husband, Sophocles, was a friend of Karamanlis and would offer our house in Psychiko as a place where the Prime Minister could hold meetings with parliamentary people like Mavros and Kassimatis. etc. The more he came the more certain I became that the man was not to be trusted. The feeling was pure intuition, and my husband insisted I was quite wrong. We introduced him to Aristotle Onassis, who shared my opinion. One day Karamanlis said that he wanted to destroy 300 men in Greece, so the country would be free. Jokingly I asked him who these 300 men of Leonidas[2]



Queen Frederica amongst her people.





Queen Frederica amongst her people.



Queen Frederica in Macedonian dress.



The Queen amongst her people.

were, and he replied that they were the industrialists. I was quite upset I told him that these 300 men had raised Greece from economic ruin and gave jobs to thousands of people. Later he worked on this threat. When the Prime Minister left our house that night, I insisted that the man was not reliable.

The King and Queen made a state visit to France at the invitation of the French president René Coty. The royal couple were given a warm welcome by the French Government and people. A later visit was made to Germany between September 17th and 21st. This was in return for the earlier German visit by President Heuss and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Greece was anxious to show that it was part of Europe, and thus worked hard to forge strong ties.

A visit was made to Switzerland in September 1958 and to Italy in May 1959 to mark the restoration of friendly relations between Greece and Italy after the unhappy interlude of the war years.

Greece had large communities in both Lebanon and Egypt, and it was felt important to strengthen ties with these countries to protect the interests of the Greeks living there. In October 1957 the Lebanese President Camille Chamoun was invited to visit the country. He was very well received. The man appeared both smart and distinguished. The dinner reception was held in the palace in Athens and the Lebanese Ambassador hosted a dinner in return. A large theatrical production was staged at the theatre of Herodes Atticus in the honour of the Lebanese visitors.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser made a state visit to Greece in 1960. Nasser had threatened to nationalise all Greek assets in his country, and the King along with the government was anxious to protect the property and rights of the large community there, particularly in Alexandria. The Marshal of the Royal Court in Athens was very disturbed when he heard that the Egyptian president intended bringing with him all his children. Nasser and his party were to stay in the official Government guest accommodation, "Maximos House", which was really too small to house such a large party! However, the problem was solved in the end

During an official visit to Salonica in May 1960, Queen Frederica in her last letter to Marshall, wrote:

On board H.M.S. Polemistis
May 29th, 1960

Dear General Marshall,

My husband and I have been all day far away in the mountains visiting by mule, some forgotten villages to bring them love and sympathy in their daily struggle for life.



Queen Frederica visiting the building of new "Homes".



Queen Frederica and King Paul introducing Princesses Sofia and Irene to social work.



King Paul with General Tito of Yugoslavia in Athens during the official visit of the Yugoslav leader.



The Queen with Yiovanka Tito.



General Tito, Yiovanka Tito, Queen Frederica and King Paul.



Royal Palace, Athens – Wedding of Princess Katherine with Major Richard Brandram.



The Members of the Royal Court – Sophocles Papanicolaou, Lilika Papanicolaou, A. Stathatos, Mrs Stathatos, Mrs Toulu Levidis, Mrs Mary Carolou, Mrs Muria Levidis, Mrs Eleni Lelouda, Mrs Doxiades, Mr Doxiades, Major Vladimir Levidis

It was midnight when we returned to our ship and heard about the disaster of the summit meeting.

Together with the deep disappointment we share with everybody else, both my husband and I send our heartfelt sympathy to you and the President.

We know how deeply the President and you must feel not being able to make the generous gestures and proposals that should have brought peace in our time.

Kruschev did not want to hear them knowing that they would be compelling. All of us are poorer for it, as all of us shared your hopes and superhuman efforts, if not in deed, certainly in spirit.

In the colossal struggle to see goodness, decency and generosity triumph over concentrated evil, we feel that you and the President represent what is best in all of us. Philosophically speaking and thinking, we feel that to make the greatest effort in the right direction under the most appalling circumstances is the greatest success which any individual human can achieve, as they thus justify in themselves the divine spark that lies in all of us. This is what you and the President have done and we know will continue to do. For this we are all grateful and satisfied.

If others take what is best in us and use it for evil, that is no longer our responsibility. Yet our own reaction to this evil is again what concerns us. And so this struggle goes on.

We know that the "cosmic" insults (there is no other big enough word I can think of) heaped upon the President and the US the very next day would have neutralised any further efforts on a higher plane to morally force Kruschev back to the conference table and make him listen to the President's words which we all longed to hear. But we must all hear these words. He must say them, not his successors. He is the man with the great soul. His words will have a greater effect and meaning than anybody else's.

Great humans such as you and the President are never led by bitterness and disappointment, but walk from wisdom towards wisdom holding our hopes and aspirations in their hearts and minds.

If you find a moment's time please tell the President of our feelings.

God bless you both in all your future efforts....

Frederica R."

In the 1950's President Eisenhower had been a visitor to the royal family in



The Ladies of the Royal Court of Greece – Mrs Doxiades, Mrs Karolou, Mrs Stathatos, Mrs Levidis, Mrs Lelouda, Lilika Papanicolaou and Mrs Levidis.



Royal Palace, Athens – Lilika Papanicolaou.



The Queen receives the René Sand prize.

King Paul invested by the Athens Academy as Honorary Member.

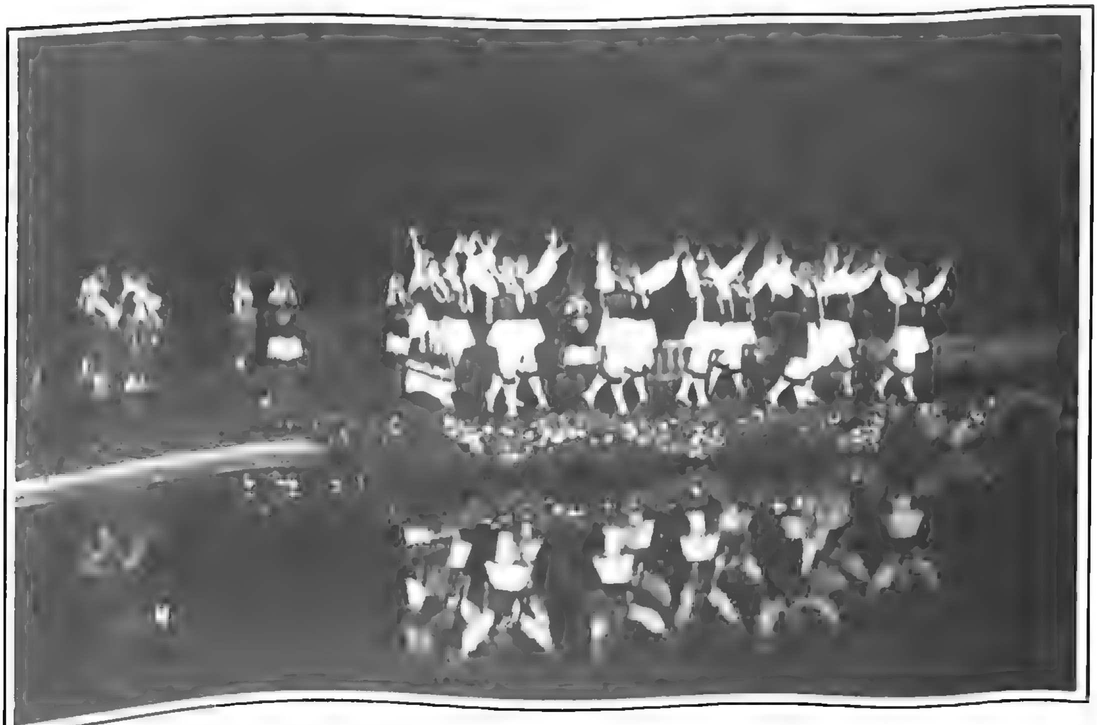




Map of all the Paedopolis built by Queen Frederica's Vassili Pronia (Their Majesties' Fund) for the Greek orphans.



Queen Frederica and King Paul admiring the latest excavation.



Boys and girls from the Paedopolis, dancing.

Athens. During his visit he happened to mention how dangerous the world situation had become due to the threat of nuclear war. After listening to him for a while, Frederica suggested:

"Why don't you try to have a summit meeting with Kruschev and try to make him understand that an atomic war will destroy the earth!"

Certainly President Eisenhower had thought of the idea, like many others in the western world. In her letter to Marshall one can glimpse just how passionately Frederica felt about the issue. Having spent a hard and tiring day touring remote villages in Macedonia, and not waiting for her return to Athens, she had hurried back to the ship and spent her evening writing long and hard to the ex-Secretary of State. It demonstrates her character which was always spontaneous and energetic.

Frequently, politicians involved themselves in matters of the Crown without reason. A particular case in point was the Civil List of 1956. This was voted annually, and had never been an issue of party politics as the Greek Crown has no private assets, save the villa of Mon Repos and Tatoi. The expenses of maintaining the palace in Athens, entertaining expenses and items such as the royal yacht, which was frequently used to entertain visiting dignitaries had to be paid out of the Civil List. By 1956 this was inadequate to meet the expenses involved. My husband in his role as Secretary and Comptroller of the Civil List suggested that the official residences, Athens palace, the Crown Prince's house in Psychiko, the palaces of Salonica and Rhodes which belonged to the state as well as staff costs and other expenses should be borne by the Government. The King himself would then receive a salary, in the same way a President would be paid. Tsaldaris and Papagos had been privately approached on the matter by Sophocles, and had reacted favourably, and promised to bring the matter before Parliament when more pressing political problems were resolved.

The palace in Salonica was a particular case in point. This was built by the Karamalis government who claimed that the building was constructed at royal request. However, at no time was the family consulted on the building plans, and no contract was signed by anyone from the Court. The palace was finished in time for the NATO meeting that took place in the town. On this occasion the palace was occupied by the Prime Minister, and his official party, whilst the King and Queen were forced to reside aboard the frigate H.M.S. "Polemistis" moored in Salonica harbour. The reason for their far less comfortable living quarters was provided by Mr. Karamanlis when he insisted the ship-borne stay was necessary for security reasons. When George Papandreou's Government came to power an order was issued that the Salonica palace be used only by "The Leader of the Country".

However, in 1956 The Civil List issue became a matter of heated debate amongst politicians. The government decided to ask Parliament to approve an increase



Greece – Queen Frederica and Jacqueline Kennedy.



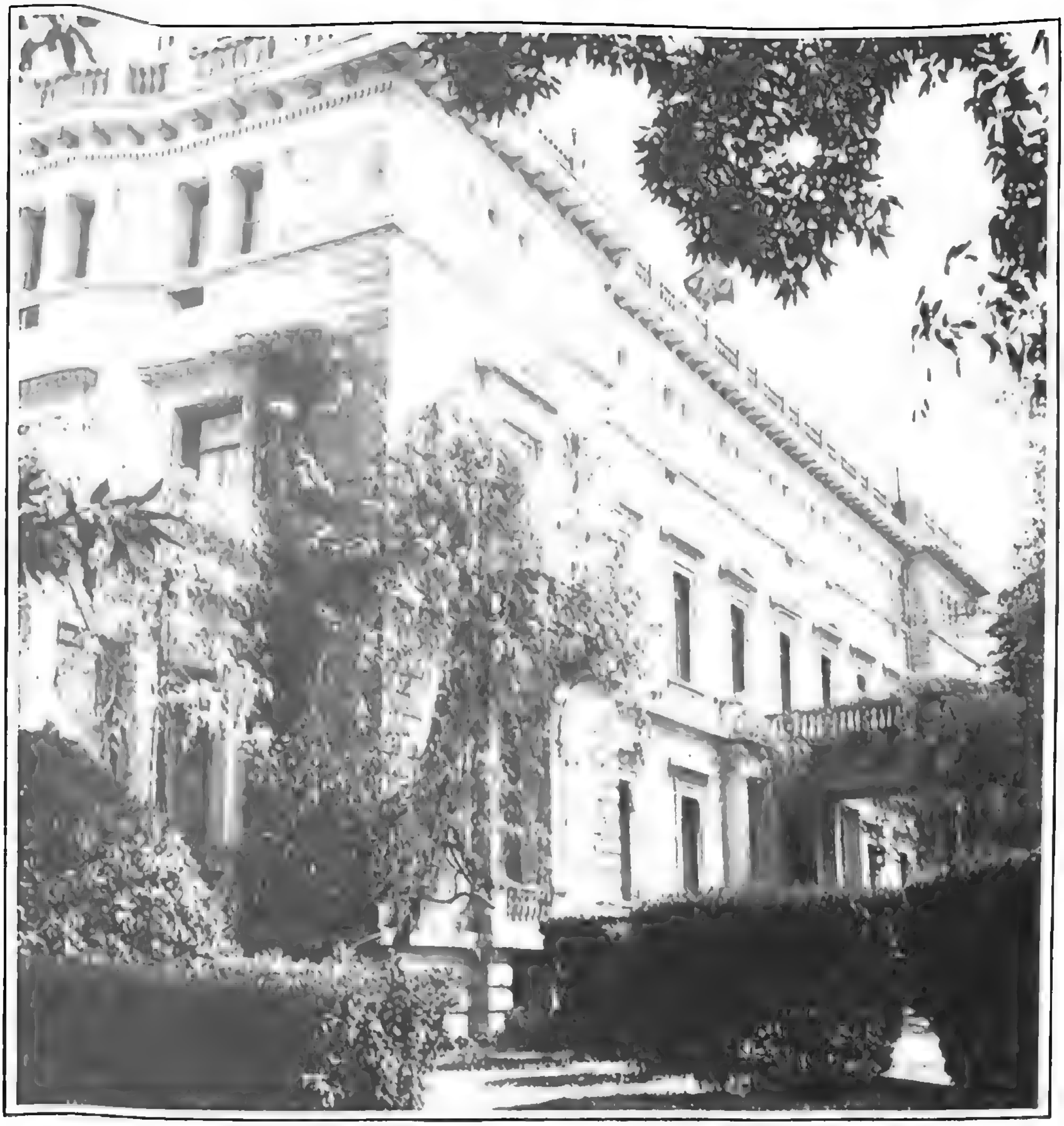
Queen Frederica with Karamanlis.



Royal Evzones Guards of the Palace, King Paul, Queen Frederica,
Princess Sofia and Princess Irene..



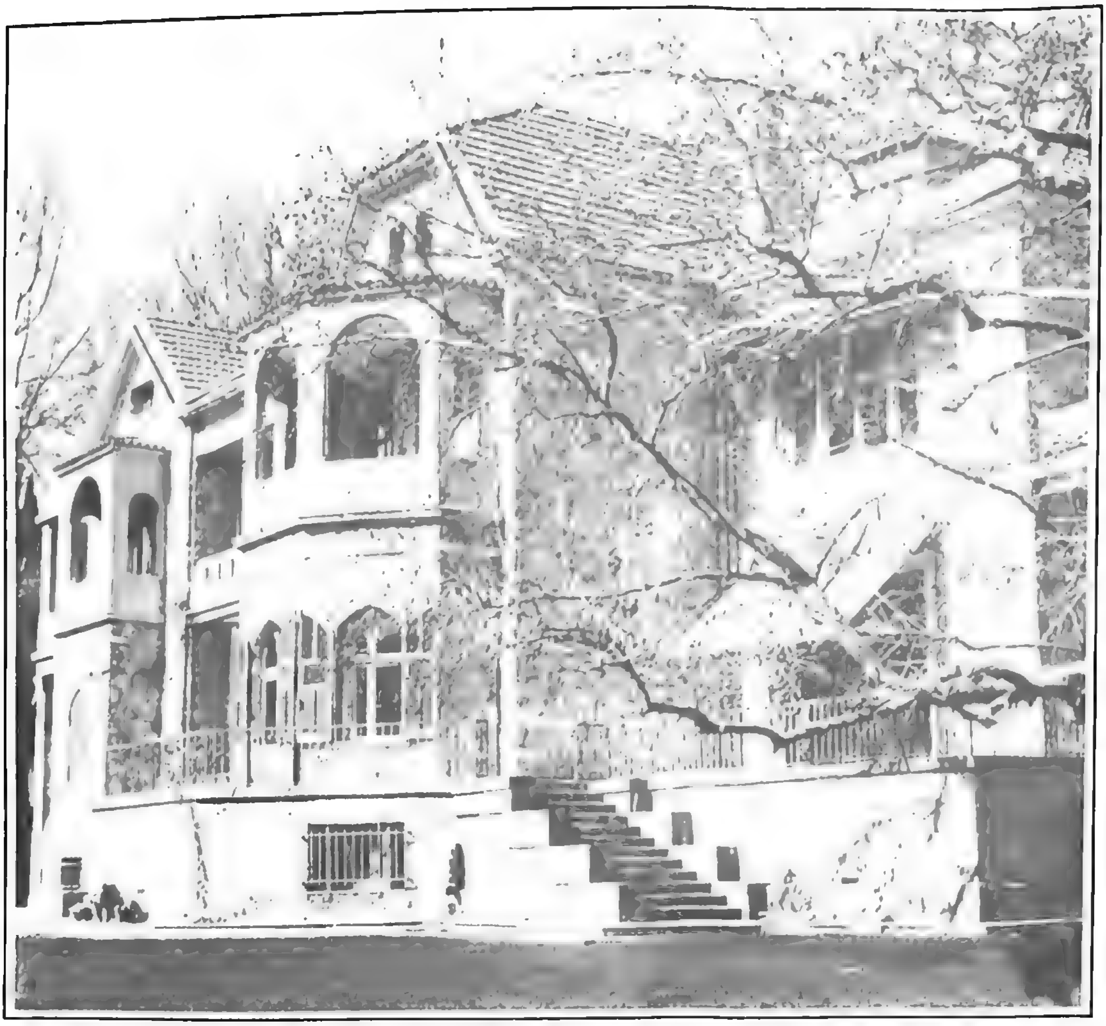
Lilika Papanicolaou at the Royal Palace in Athens.



THE ROYAL PALACE IN ATHENS

The Royal Palace was among the most impressive buildings in Athens. It was built at the turn of the century by the Greek-German architect Ziller as a residence for King Constantine I, then Crown Prince. The choice of site, half way down Herod Atticus Street, radically changed the aspect of what was until then rather an abandoned part of Athens; it is now one of the most elegant and attractive quarters of the capital. It faces the gardens of what used to be the Royal Palace and is now the Parliament building.

For twenty years the Palace in Herod Atticus Streets was the residence of Crown Prince Constantine and his family. When he succeeded to the throne on the death of his father King George I in 1913, he decided not to move to the "Old Palace" facing Constitution Square but to stay on in his own house, which has been the King's official residence.



THE PRIVATELY OWNED ROYAL ESTATE AT TATOI

It is difficult to say with any certainty at what date the ancient name of Dekeleia was changed to Tatoi. The most plausible theory is that "Tatoi" derived from the family who originally owned the property, and this name is to be found in a number of deeds and documents dating back to 1552. In the 19th century the property had passed into the hands of the Scarlatos Soutsos family, from whom King George I bought it with the dowry of his wife the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia with the intention of using it as a summer residence. Until 1880 the Royal Family lived in the old Soutsos house; that year a larger building was built next to it. The royal villa as it now stands was completed in 1888. It is a replica of an English-style country house near Peterhof, in the Finnish Gulf, which once belonged to Czar Alexander II. The Greek-German architect Ziller drew up the plans in accordance with the wishes of Queen Olga, consort of King George I.

A separate house was built near the main villa for the use of Crown Prince Constantine and his family, and another smaller building for the royal household. Both these houses and several auxiliary buildings were burnt down in the great fire of June 30, 1916 in which King Constantine nearly lost his life and which reduced to ashes half the woodland surrounding the villa.

The Royal Estate at Tatoi is 1,600 ft. above sea-level, lying in the foothills of Mount Parnes 15 miles north of Athens.

The Sovereigns and Princes of the Royal House of Greece are all buried at Tatoi.

of the Civil List from 635,000 drachmas per month to 960,000 per month. When the matter was brought to Chamber, the Opposition walked out just before the vote was taken, and the measure was thus approved by the Government supporters only. Queen Frederica writes about the matter to George Marshall in her letter of June 30th, 1957:

"... Thank goodness there is a lot of fun and laughter mixed up with the business of living. I give you a small example to convince you. Some six months ago the Government decided to increase the King's money, as we were running up debts.... Behind the scenes the opposition had agreed to this, so that there should not be any embarrassing discussions in Parliament. When the Bill was introduced the Opposition dropped out.... The law was voted and passed by only the Government majority.... You can imagine how horrible this was to my husband and myself. It was so awfully vulgar. Overnight my husband made his decision. He wrote a letter to the Prime Minister thanking him for his understanding and earnest appreciation of the situation.

But informed him that we would not accept the increase. This could, in my husband's view, only be done if all political parties agreed on this point, and that he would rather make stringent economies...."

My husband, Sophocles, insisted that by paying the King a salary and the government funding the running expenses of the official residences, and that by insisting on the Civil List, it was Karamanlis and not the Opposition who was the real villain of the piece, as this was a subtle way of undermining the King's popularity with the people. This was the first run-in my husband had with Prime Minister Karamanlis.

Today, Greece has no King, but the President is paid in the manner in which my husband suggested the King should have been paid and all the previous Presidents, although out of job, they are paid a very good sum of money.

NOTES

1. In that letter one can see she doies not mention her ideas about tourism. Fear to be critisised as interfering in government matters? Was she so advised by politicians?
2. Leonidas took 300 men with him to defend the pass of Thermopylae against the Persians.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Olympic Gold Medal
for
H.R.H. Prince Constantine of Greece

ΑΓΩΝ ΓΑΡ ΑΝΔΡΑΣ ΟΥ ΜΕΝΕΙ
ΛΕΑΛΙ ΜΜΕΝΟΥΣ
ΑΙΣΧΥΛΟΣ

The [Olympic] Contest is not
For Conceited Men.
Aeschylus

ALWAYS BE THE BEST
AND EXCEL OVER OTHERS

Peleus to his son Achilles.

In 1960 the Olympic Games took place in Rome. Prior to this in 1958, Prince Constantine was given a Lightning class racing dingy as a Christmas present, and like his father who adored sailing, the Crown Prince spent most of his free time sailing the boat in Sounion and Saronikos. With two sailing companions who acted as crew. The trio trained themselves into a well coordinated team, which often won prizes at Athens Yacht Club. Another person who crewed with or sailed against Constantine was Prince Don Juan Carlos on his frequent visits to Greece. Later the Royal Navy presented Constantine with a Danish built Dragon racing yacht. The idea began to dawn that he would enter the 1960 Olympic Games. A period of intensive training began, with the King and Queen who had also obtained boats of a similar class accompanying or racing him during practice runs in Phaleron Bay. In due course the Crown Prince and his team left for Naples where the sailing events were to be held. Not long afterwards King Paul and Queen Frederica sailed to Naples on board H.M.S. Polemistis, which dropped anchor in the Bay of Naples. The Dragon Class races began on August 29th, 1960. The course consisted of seven runs over a triangular course of approximately twelve miles in length. There were entrants from 27 other countries in this event. To begin with Constantine in his boat "Nirefs" did not do very well, but in further heats his performance improved.

There was then a break for three days with the heats being resumed September 5th. In accordance with Olympic rules the scoring is compounded as a result of all runs accomplished, and thus his overall performance gave him first place. Thus Crown Prince Constantine had won the Gold Medal for Greece. This was a tremendous achievement, as Greece had only won a gold once before since the revival of the Olympic Games in 1896. The first medal was won by the marathon runner Loues at the Athens Olympics of 1896. The Greek people were over the moon with the result and the young Prince received a hero's welcome when he returned home.

The first Modern Olympic Games took place in Athens in 1896. The original International Committee of the revived Games had 14 members and included: D. Vikelas of Greece who served as President, the Secretary Baron Pierre de Coubertin (France), A. de Boutovsky represented Russia, Dr. W. Gebhardt, Germany, J. Guth-Jarvosky, Czechslovakia, Ferenc Kimeny, Hungary, and Victor Balek, Sweden, amongst others. A stadium was built by D. Zappas. It is known as the "Marble Stadium" and is situated opposite Zappion Megaron. The runners were the stars of the show, and put up a fine performance. The Greek Loues ran the Marathon in two hours and fifty five minutes, to take the Gold Medal.

The original Olympic Games commenced in 800 BC to honour Jupiter and his son Athletos, from whose name derives the word athlete. The games were developed and stabilized by the King Pelops to honour Hera the mother of Jupiter. This later development happened in the 5th Century BC, when the games took place every five years. The spirit of the games was not the exclusive preserve of athletes. Artists also participated with music, song, poetry and drama. It is said the tragedian Sophocles received a laurel crown for his work.

Girls (virgins) and young boys could participate only in the Marathon race. In 426 BC the Goths invaded Greece and destroyed the Temple of Jupiter in Olympia. The invaders wanted to take part in the Games so the Greeks annulled the Games, and instead held them in an unofficial capacity as the event did not have the same official status.

Under these circumstances they were known as "Anolympias". In 416 BC Alcibiades won a laurel crown for chariot racing.

In 211 AD the Emperor Nero wanted to participate. As he imposed himself, he therefore did not meet the required standard of entrance. Again the Games were downgraded to "Anolympias"

The Roman Emperor, Caligula took the famous statue of Jupiter made in gold and ivory back to Rome. This was considered a huge sacrilege. Later the Emperor of Constantinople, Theodosios, recaptured the statue and returned to Constantinople with the figure, which disappeared after the fall of Constantinople and has not been seen since, stolen or destroyed by the Turks.

From the fifth century up to Byzantine time women were totally excluded from the Games as all the athletes performed in the nude. The exception was Kallipatira from Rhodes, because she was mother, sister and wife to winners of the laurel crown. During the Byzantine Empire women were once again admitted both as spectators and contestants. The Games came to an end in 500 AD. They were forgotten for a thousand years, and were not mentioned again until the sixteenth century when the idea of reviving them was first mooted by Petro-Paulo Vergero, a Florentine. However, the idea had to remain in abeyance until the end of the nineteenth century when Baron de Coubertin took the first active steps that led to the new Olympics coming to pass, and no site for the first Olympiad was more suitable than the Greek capital, Athens.

Meanwhile back to Greece, in 1963, General de Gaulle came on an official visit. He made a splendid entrance. The French Embassy had to be re-decorated for his stay, and silver had to be brought from France to embellish the dining room, there. I was astonished at the Presentation Ceremony in the Palace, that the French President had such a remarkable memory. He recalled my husband from the war years, when they used to meet at Claridges Hotel when the leader of the Free French would make visits to King George and then later they would meet at the London Allied Club. The reception held at the French Embassy, hosted by the Ambassador and Madame Charboniere, was one of the finest affairs Athens had seen for a long time.

There were so many official dinners and occasions that a funny story comes to mind. A few months before De Gaulle's visit, I had applied to a Swiss religious fellowship to furnish me with a French speaking nanny. In due course the requisite papers arrived, and when I came to complete them I noticed they asked about my husband's job, asking whether it was responsible or not. Naturally I ticked the box to indicate that my husband was in respectable employment. Mlle. Cecile arrived at our house on the same day as the French President made his entrance into Athens. I was so busy with the French visit that I had no time to sit down and chat to the nanny, but told her that I would have a long talk in four days time, that was to say after De Gaulle had left. On each of these evenings my husband would put on full evening dress, and all his official decorations, whilst I donned a long dress. On the fourth day Mlle. Cecile came to me and handed in her notice. The reason she gave me was that she was sure my husband worked as a juggler in a cabaret and that I was his assistant. Why else she asked would we put on such fancy costumes each evening, and as she did not consider show business personalities to be people of respected repute, she had no option but to resign from my employment. We all roared with laughter and quickly reassured the prim young lady that we were not jugglers, and that my husband held an important post in the Court of the King and Queen, she was reassured and stayed with us for four years. However, whenever we had to go to official receptions or dinners, we would say we had to put on our "jugglers' costumes", and so this became a family joke.



THE ROYAL VILLA OF "MON REPOS" IN CORFU

The villa of "Mon Repos" in Corfu is the summer residence of the Royal Family, which usually spent two months of the year there. It was built in 1828–31 by the then High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, Sir Frederick Adam, who had a Greek-born wife, and became the property of the Greek Royal Family after the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece by Great Britain in 1864. The house itself is a simple country villa built in the elegant neo-classical style of the British Regency period. The main entrance hall is domed and painted in Wedgewood blue with a white Grecian frieze at the height of the ceiling. "Mon Repos" commands a magnificent view over the Corfu Channel and is surrounded by luxuriant gardens containing both indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs.

Another event was in the air which would cause us to dress up in our "Jugglers' Costumes" once again. Princess Sofia had met Don Juan Carlos Duke of Asturias Many years before they were together during Queen Frederica's Cruise of the Greek islands aboard "Agamenmon". No doubt they had occasionally met during his sailing visits to Greece. However, it was not until the summer of 1961, that they met on a more social basis. The occasion for the meeting was the wedding of the Duke of Kent to Lady Catherine Worsley in London. The first Frederica heard of all this was a telephone call from Crown Prince Constantine to his parents to tell them "that something was going on between Sofia and Juan Carlos".

Her parents thoroughly approved of the relationship and asked Juan Carlos to join them at the Family's summer home, Mon Repos on Corfu and it was there he officially proposed to Princess Sofia. The Prince and Princess made a handsome couple, and it was a joy to see them together. At that time Don Carlos was not King of Spain, and the future of the Spanish Monarchy was very much in doubt. Having been exiled by Franco, it was difficult to determine what was going to happen at the "Generalissimo's" death. This did not matter at the time, in fact all that mattered was that the couple were in love.

Princess Sofia and Prince Juan Carlos were married in Athens' Cathedral on Sunday May 14th, 1962. It was necessary to have two wedding ceremonies as Juan Carlos was a Catholic. The first ceremony was held at the Catholic Cathedral of St. Denis and was followed by the Greek Orthodox service at Athens Cathedral.

Three official receptions were held prior to the wedding ceremony. The first of these was held at the Royal Palace on Thursday May 11th. This was by far the largest and we were all agog at the priceless jewellery and stunning dresses worn by the Spanish aristocrats (Les Grands d'Espagne). The Spanish houses wanted to honour their Prince in order to impress on Franco that it was their wish that the Monarchy be reinstated in Spain.

As we have said the ladies from Spain wore the most beautifully expensive gowns and changed dresses and jewellery for each of the different receptions. They made sure their jewellery matched their dresses. Green frocks were accompanied by emeralds, red by rubies and blue by sapphires. The "coup-d'oeil" was simply incredible. The beauty and charm of these receptions quite overcame the senses. I found the Spaniards to be friendly people, and in character and temperament were very much like the Greeks. They swung from exaggeration to extremes of pragmatism. This produces a very temperamental character, but then people can very often become slaves to their passions. Passions which can create on one hand monumental errors and on the other produce miracles. The senses drive our lives. If they are controlled they produce constructive results, but if they are not the results can be destructive, but nonetheless a sense of beauty is contained in both cases.



Athens – Visit of Emperor Haile Selaisse of Ethiopia.

Queen Frederica was only 44 years of age, she was still youthful and attractive, and so was able to enjoy her daughter's wedding to the full. Again her powers of organization came to the fore, arranging the three receptions with immaculate precision, and she devoted all her time and energy for the well being of her guests. When not attending the social functions she made sure that trips were planned so that they could visit all the sites of Athens, arranging jaunts to the Acropolis and the Museums so that every hour of their stay was filled as pleasantly as possible.

The wedding ceremony in Athens Cathedral was a grand affair and was full to brimming with the crowned heads of Europe along with a host of others. Amongst the guests that Sunday was Queen Juliana and Prince Bernard of the Netherlands, King Olav of Norway, Queen Ingrid of Denmark, Queen Ena of Spain, the Count and Countess of Barcelona (parents of the Groom), King Michael and Queen Anne of Rumania, Queen Helen of Rumania, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, Princess Marina Duchess of Kent, Princess Olga of Yugoslavia, Princess Irene the Duchess of Aosta, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne of Great Britain, along with several other guests.

The old state landau which had been used at King Paul and Queen Frederica's wedding was used to drive the couple away from the Church. It really was the most glamorous Greek wedding I have ever seen in my life.

In September 1962 the Archbishop-President Makarios of the newly independent Cyprus made a state visit to Greece, and this gave the people of Greece an opportunity to express their feelings over the newly resolved Cyprus issue. His was a personality in keeping with those times. In his youth Makarios was a deacon in the Church of Saint Irene in Athens. Priests and prelates were surprised by his powerful accomplishments later in life. As a personality he gave the impression of a man devoted to religion and very controlled in all his actions. He was always smiling and acted always with scrupulous politeness. He treated the Royal Family and members of the Court with the gravest respect. As for his actions as a Church leader and politician, I leave for historians to evaluate

In 1821 the Greeks rose against the Turks in Morea and in retaliation the Sultan hung the Patriarch Gregorios V from the Patriarcate in Constantinople. The body was later flung in the Bosphorus and floated on the shores of the Black Sea near Odessa where the Church Holy Virgin was built in commemoration of the event.

On November 28th 1962, the Italian President and Mrs. Segni officially visited Greece, this was in return for the visit paid by King Paul and Queen Frederica in 1959. Now seventeen years had elapsed since the end of hostilities. We had all made trips to Italy in the intervening years and the War was quite forgotten. The Italian visit passed off in a friendly and lighthearted manner.

Some days before the arrival of Antonio Segni we had to go up to northern Greece to inaugurate a "Paedopolis" and then visit some others in the region. The weather was hot and windy and we all came back very sun burnt, all with reindeer red noses.

On Segni's arrival he noted our condition and passed a remark:

"Why do you ladies and the Queen have such red noses?"

My blushes were spared by Mrs. Conti, wife of the Italian Ambassador, who told him that we had all been up in the mountains attending to the "Paedopolis" and the orphan children in the region. Sig. Segni replied:

"The Greeks know how to fight a war and how to restore peace!"

Greek officers began to recount stories about the war. It seemed when the Italians were taken prisoner, the soldiers would sit down with their former enemy and smoke a cigarette. The Officers did not know how to deal with this lack of enmity. They cautioned their men on this custom, saying that the Italians were Prisoners of war, and therefore potentially dangerous. The men turned back saying:

"Come on let the boys smoke a cigarette and relax a little, the battle is over".

We came to the conclusion that the old saying:

Una razza, una faccia!", was perfectly true.

On January 9th 1963, King Paul and Queen Frederica celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. They decided to give a reception in the Palace, and this was preceded by a doxology in the Chapel at 11.30am. Both the King and the Queen appeared radiantly happy, which was reflected in the smiles on their faces. They had spent twenty-five years together. Years which had been both difficult and turbulent.

Another dark cloud, however, had just appeared on the horizon. There was a wrangle over political one upmanship going on between Constantine Karamanlis and George Papandreou. Papanadreou aware that his arch-rival Karamanlis would be present at the Silver Wedding celebrations at the Palace refused to attend, instead sending the Royal Couple a note expressing his best wishes.

This upset the Queen who remarked:

"Why don't they put politics aside on this one day, to give us the pleasure of seeing them here together, but it seems they can't do so. It doesn't matter, because

to-day I'm happy. I'm very happy indeed because it's a special day for myself and my husband. Nothing must disturb this".

I was very touched by her words, but I felt she wanted to say more, perhaps, she had a premonition this would be her last Wedding Anniversary, and so we decided to have a private dinner party for the King and Queen along with a group of mutual friends. The next evening we celebrated at home with an enormous wedding cake and had a small violin ensemble joined by a group of singers, entertained us with several songs. This relaxed the Royal couple who began to enjoy themselves in the comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

As the days passed, however, the tension increased between Mr. Karamanlis and the Monarchy. I will now quote from the text of a taped interview the Queen gave to Stelio Hourmouzios concerning one of these incidents. In it she said:

"I didn't dislike Karamanlis, I only disapproved of some of his actions. For instance he would try to expose the King whenever he could, and I would try and tell him he could do no such thing. There was one row, and the only row we ever had, was in the hospital when my husband had appendicitis. I hadn't slept for two nights. Karamanlis asked to see my husband. He had just come out of the theatre after his operation, and the doctors had forbidden any visitors, even I was not allowed to see him. He tried to enter the King's room, but I stopped him and so he angrily accompanied me to the small waiting room that I had at my disposal. He informed me that the Crown Prince would have to go to Mount Athos for the Millenary Celebrations. I said, Mr. Prime Minister my husband is the only Greek Orthodox King in the world, he is more Orthodox in his soul than any one of us. Mount Athos does not recognize the Greek Government, only the Greek King. (Mount Athos was built by the Byzantine Emperors and is under the Patriarcate of Constantinople.) So you cannot have these enormous celebrations with all the Orthodox Patriachs attending without the presence of the Greek King, just because you don't want to postpone them."

"I have asked Father Ieronimos and he said he can postpone them. Karamanlis then began to shout, so I said please stop shouting, I am not a Minister of yours. So we started talking normally and then he left.

So I rang up my son and told him all about what had happened. In fact the Patriarch of Constatinople postponed the celebrations since he wanted the King to attend. That was the nature of our misunderstanding. I really don't know how it became a legend."

The Cyprus dispute finally came to an end on the evening of 19th February 1959, when Greece, Britain and Turkey signed an agreement on the future of the island. On 13th December 1959 Archbishop Makarios was elected President of Cyprus, and in keeping with the London agreement Dr. Kutchuk, leader of the



Royal Palace, Athens – The engagement of Princess Sofia of Greece to Prince Juan Carlos of Asturias (later to become King Juan Carlos of Spain).

Front row: Princess Alice (born Mountbatten), mother of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, (consort of Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain), Prince Constantine, Queen Frederica, King Paul and Princess Irene of Greece, their daughter.

Back row: Princess Katherine (sister of the King), Prince Michael, Prince Juan Carlos of Asturias and the parents of the Prince, Her Royal Highness Dona Maria de las Mercedes of Bourbon, the Two Sicilies and Orleans, Countess of Barcelona and H.R.H. Don Juan of Bourbon, Count of Barcelona.

Turkish minority was Vice-President. On August 16th, 1960 Cyprus was proclaimed and internationally recognized as an Independent Republic. On February 16th 1961 Cyprus voted to join the British Commonwealth. On March 14th of that year, Archbishop Makarios took his place among the other Commonwealth premiers at the Commonwealth Conference in London. Queen Elizabeth stopped to visit Akrotiri, Cyprus on her way to visit India and Pakistan. She was the first reigning British Monarch to visit Cyprus since Richard I in 1191.

All Greeks wished to end the misunderstandings and political disputes with our friends in Britain, and we were happy to hear that our King and Queen were interested in making a state Visit to Great Britain. Soundings were made in Athens and met with a favourable response. There was a strong relationship between the two Royal Families. Prince Philip brought his children Prince Charles and Princess Anne to visit their grandmother, Princess Alice on several unofficial visits. Queen Elizabeth had visited to meet her new Greek relatives soon after her marriage.

This time it was very special. A State Visit by the Greek Royals was going to mark and revive the old friendship. On February 20th 1963, it was announced that King Paul and Queen Frederica had accepted an invitation from Queen Elizabeth to stay at Buckingham Palace between July 9th and 12th.

Although there had been many unofficial visits to London there had only been one State Visit to the British Isles, when George I visited Edward VII, who happened also to be his brother-In-law.

Constantine Karamanlis was the leader of the E.R.E. Party, and was at that time still Prime Minister of Greece. The Opposition Leader was George Papandreou. 1963 marked the centennial of the Greek Monarchy. The event was commemorated by celebration at the Palace. Mr. Papandreou refused to attend the Ceremonies and sent a ten page letter by way of explanation. His letter explained that the decision to boycott the centenary was reached at by Centre Union Party and was by no means to be construed as a personal affront to the King. It was a political gesture in protest at the existence of a fraudulent majority in the Chamber. Papandreou asked for the King's intervention as a moderator in the matter, as this was his Constitutional role. The King was entitled to the opportunity to advise his councillors before dissolving Parliament and demanding the dismissal of Karamanlis. This was a very serious charge, as the Opposition was in effect accusing the Government of rigging the elections. The King was in a quandary and whilst he was trying to find a legal solution to the problem, Papandreou released his letter to the Press, accusing the King of identifying himself with the E.R.E. Government of Constantine Karamanlis.

The Joint Leader of the Central Union Party, Sophocles Venizelos, at once leapt to the King's defense, declaring that he was impartial towards all political parties. In the meantime Queen Frederica had made a private visit to London to attend the



THE PRINCESS SOFIA

Princess Sofia, the eldest of the three children of the late King Paul and Queen Frederica, was born at Psychico Palace on November 2, 1938.
The first few years of her life were spent in Egypt and South Africa, where her parents lived during the occupation of Greece in the last war. On their return to Greece in 1946 Princess Sophie attended the school founded by her parents at Psychico, and from 1951 to 1955 she was a pupil at Salem School, in Germany. In 1956 she took up nursing and was awarded her Nurse's Certificate after following the full course at the "Mitera" Baby Centre in Athens. She was also a keen Girl Guide, joining as a Brownie and rising to Chief Captain.
Among Princess Sofia's many private interests archaeology takes a high place, and with her sister Princess Irene she published two monographs on the excavations they carried out in Attica.
Sailing is Princess Sofia's favourite sport: she was a reserve member of the "Dragon" crew with which her brother King Constantine won his Olympic Gold Medal in 1960.
On May 14, 1962 Princess Sofia was married in Athens to Don Juan Carlos, Prince of the Asturias (son of the Count of Barcelona and the grandson of the late King Alfonso XIII of Spain) who became King Juan Carlos of Spain.



Athens, 14th May 1962 – Marriage of Princess Sofia of Greee to Prince Juan Carlos of Asturias (later to become King Juan Carlos of Spain).



Athens, 14th May 1962 – The marriage of Princess Sofia and Prince Juan Carlos, attended by eight Royal bridesmaids, Princess Irene of Greece, Princess Pilar of Spain, Princess Anne of France, Princesses Benedicte and Anne-Marie of Denmark, Princess Irene of Holland, Princess Alexandra of Kent and Tatiana Radziwill.

wedding of Princess Alexandra, daughter of Princess Marina, to Mr. Angus Ogilvie. During her visit there had been a protest orchestrated by a dozen of people headed by Betty Abatielos, the British born wife of Anthony Abatielos[1], herself a well known Communist and one time correspondent for the Communist "Daily Worker", in Athens.

The Abatelios incident blew up into a big commotion, which entailed an apology from Foreign Secretary, Lord Home who said:

"Her Majesty's Government attach the greatest value to our ancient and traditional friendship with Greece.... We value Greece as an ally in N.A.T.O. and as a co-signatory of the Cyprus agreement, and I trust the incident for which I have expressed my regrets will not be allowed to damage relations between our two countries."

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan answering a question in the House of Commons in relation to the forthcoming Royal visit said:

"I hope very much this visit will take place as planned. The proposed visit will, therefore, mark the traditional vigour of the friendly relations between our two countries.... It is hoped that this visit will be of the greatest value to our ancient and traditional friendship with Greece, and it is the outward and visible sign of the that fact".

All statements came to the attention of the Press who would have ignored the matter, and the ensuing adverse publicity strained relations with the Greek Government. The furore gave the Government and the Opposition an excuse to try and cancel the proposed visit of the king and Queen to Britain. A previous official visit had been cancelled in 1953 by the Papagos Government, due to the political crisis over Cyprus. The King and Queen insisted that the tour take place particularly as the Government had given its blessing to the venture when it was first suggested. They also pointed out that it was very necessary in order to show the revived state of friendship between the two countries.

It was amongst all this friction that Prime Minister Karamanlis asked to see the King.

The Prime Minister recommended that in the prevailing circumstances it might be advisable for the State Visit to Britain be postponed until a more propitious time. King Paul replied:

"It would be unpleasant to spurn the hand of friendship that was being extended by Britain. The British Government had emphasised the importance attached to the visit, and it was really a shock that one would consider bowing to the pressure of ten or twenty people or risk breaking a relationship with an old ally."



14th May 1962, Athens Catholic Church – Attending the marriage of Princess Sofia of Greece with Prince Juan Carlos of Spain, 137 members of the Royal families of Europe, including the King and Queen of Greece, T.R.H. the Count and Countess of Barcelona, Spain, H.R.H. Umberto of Italy, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg, the Queen of Denmark and Prince Bernard, T.R.H. King Michael and Queen Maria of Rumania, King Olav of Norway, Princesses Sybil, Marguerite, Désirée and Christine of Sweden, H.R.H. Henri of Orleans, the Count and Countess of Paris, H.R.H. Pincess Marina, Duchess of Kent, H.R.H. Princess Alexandra of Kent, H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent, T.R.H. Prince Paul and Princess Olga of Yugoslavia, T.R.H. the Prince and Princes of Liechtenstein, T.R.H. Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco etc....

The King then asked the Prime Minister to reconsider his objection. Under the Greek Constitution, when the Prime Minister finds himself in disagreement with the King, he must submit his resignation. On the 11th of June, Karamanlis saw the King once again and submitted his resignation. At the time rumours inferred that the Prime Minister had other reasons for his resignation and that he was using the London Visit as an excuse to settle old scores with his own party, the Opposition and the Allies. The rumours came from all colours of political opinion, and some argued that even if the King should acquiesce to the wishes of the Government, were politicians really to be trusted? They cited events in 1941 when the King had asked a group of politicians to take over the position of Prime Minister, and none had been willing to accept. Others felt that we simply wished to preserve our good relations with Britain. I belonged to the latter school of thought. A number also held the British Government responsible for Betty Abatielos's insult to Queen Frederica, a case that bore no relation to the fact, although that did not prevent these people from accusing us of being rather too pro-British. However, I suppose the consensus was that a lot of people were thrilled at the idea that relations between the two countries were improving.

The Opposition led by George Papandreou, sided with the King and supported the Visit. They also came out with a slogan against Karamanlis. The cry was ... "Force and Forgery, that caused turmoil." Maybe the King now took heed of the accusations against Karamanlis, and thus accepted his resignation. He also issued a statement explaining his own position in the crisis:

"Our democratic form of Government requires that the people should be kept fully informed of what happens in the Country. It is in this spirit that I desire to communicate directly with my people and to give them the reasons which caused the Government's resignation, as well as my own feelings in this matter. I have accepted with great regret the resignation of the Prime Minister Mr. Constantine Karamanlis. We have collaborated harmoniously for a long time while I followed the successful efforts of his Government for the development and progress of our Country. I express to Mr. Karamanlis my complete satisfaction with his services to the Country. The resignation of the Government is due to a difference of opinion which has arisen as a result of my non-acceptance of the Prime Minister's recommendation that the State Visit to Great Britain fixed for July 9th should not take place.

After due consideration, I believe that in the present circumstances the interests of the country require that the State Visit should take place. I consider that this matter is of wider national importance, and I deem it to be my duty not to agree to a course of action that would, in my opinion, be detrimental to the country, before I avail myself of the means provided by the Constitution in order to enable new responsible advice to be rendered on the subject.

My considered opinion that the realization of the state visit is necessary is based on the fact that its postponement or cancellation would serve the aims of those who



Athens, 14th May, 1962 – Marriage of Princess Sofia of Greece with Prince Juan Carlos of Spain. Reception at the Palace, for Royalties.

A. Queen Frederica of Greece with the head of the Royal House of Spain, father of the bridegroom, the Count of Barcelona; *B*. King Paul I of Greece with the Countess of Barcelona; *C*. Queen Victoria Eugenia of Spain with Queen Ingrid of Denmark; *D*. Prince Charles of Bourbon and the Two Sicilies with Princess Anne of France.



Royal Palace, Athens, 14th May 1962 – The newly weds, Princess Sofia and Prince Juan Carlos of Spain.



Athens, 14th May 1962 – The wedding cortege of Princess Sofia to Prince Juan Carlos.

wish to undermine the security of Greece, and that it is neither right nor proper that the Greek people should submit to the pressure of a small number of people, who are consciously or unconsciously serving Communist aims directed against the State, and who do not represent the views or sentiments of our allies and traditional friends the British people.

The refusal of the invitation of the Queen of England after it has been officially accepted would be a blow to the friendship and mutual confidence which exists within the N.A.T.O. alliance and which constitutes the indispensable prerequisite for the successful pursuit of the defensive struggle for existence being waged by our Country.

"All Greeks, myself first of all, were distressed and grieved by the unfortunate incidents in London last April. But should we ignore the fact that these feelings were shared by the vast majority of the British People whose Government officially expressed regrets and apologies and has subsequently sent assurances and messages asking that the visit take place as planned?

In view of these considerations, I feel that the threat of insignificant and irresponsible demonstrations which in no way would reflect the true sentiments of the British People, and which could not effect the King and Queen of the Hellenes, should not mislead us into withdrawing our acceptance of the invitation. The grave crisis and the bitterness through which Anglo-Greek relations passed in recent years are now happily, things of the past. The gallant British people have always come to our side in times of peril. We have experienced their bravery at close quarters, we are proud to give hospitality to their dead who fell on Greek soil in common struggles with us."

After Karamanlis's resignation the King decided to ask Takis Pipinelis to form a Government. General opinion felt that Karamanlis had actively sought the conflict between King and State because he did not like his secondary role in relation to Parliament.

So the Royal Visit went ahead. On the 6th of July a Comet aircraft landed at Gatwick airport bringing King Paul and Queen Frederica of the Hellenes to England. The King was accompanied by Prime Minister Pipinelis, D. Levidis the King's Chamberlain and Sophocles Papanicolau the Keeper of the Privy Purse, all of whom had spent the war years with King George II, first in Crete and then in London. H.R.H. Prince Philip was at the airport to greet Their Majesties as official representative of the Queen, and he was accompanied by various members of the British Government.

A special train bearing the Greek Coat of Arms conveyed them to Victoria Station, where Queen Elizabeth and Members of the British Royal Family were

waiting to greet them. On alighting from the train King Paul inspected the honour guard of Grenadiers, and a forty-one gun salute was fired in both Hyde Park and the Tower of London. The King and Queen then boarded a horse drawn carriage which drove them to Buckingham Palace.

As the Royal Procession crossed Victoria Street, near the statue of Victoria, Greek students and others waited to cheer the party. We were surprised to see that they were joined by many war veterans and nurses who had been stationed in Greece, Egypt and South Africa. Some of them remembered the King from his years in Egypt while others had helped the Queen during the guerrilla war. It was thrilling to see the two flags flying side by side again. It was said that the Abatielos woman tried to cause some trouble on a corner near Victoria Station, but no one paid any attention to her. The friendship between Greece and Great Britain had been officially renewed. This was reassuring to every true patriot.

That same afternoon, King Paul and Queen Frederica drove to Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and visit the shrine of Edward the Confessor. The Abatielos woman made another appearance, this time she tried to lay her own wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier, but the Police arrived and took her away.

That evening there was a great banquet in Buckingham Palace, where Queen Elizabeth presented the Greek King with "The Order of the Garter", and the Prime Minister was awarded the Grand Cross of the British Empire. My husband Sophocoles Papanicolaou was made the "Knight Commander of the Victorian Order (KCVO)" whilst D. Levidis was given the Grand Cross of the British Empire (GCBE). After the presentation the British Queen said:

"Greece's heroic resistance against the invaders in the last war has been a source of pride and inspiration to us all perhaps the greatest courage and kindness was shown by the countless villages in all parts of your country which risked everything to hide and protect Allied Servicemen trapped in Greece and Crete. After the war it fought not to succumb to the tyranny which had already engulfed its neighbours. Today we are proud to have such a valiant people as our allies in N.A.T.O. and in the ranks of the free peoples of the world."

King Paul in his reply to the warm welcome of Queen Elizabeth said that:

"Modern Greece and British civilization were heirs to the same ancient Greek classical spirit. During the modern histories of these two nations this affinity had been their inspired source of strength in overcoming the forces of darkness. From the moment they rose to fight for their independence the Greeks have always found the British nation at their side as an ally and friend. There have been moments of uncertainty for sincere supporters of Anglo-Hellenic understanding such as are bound

to occur at one time or another even between the firmest of friends. However, these moments were only transient, precisely because the sincere feelings of traditional Greco-British friendship prevailed in the end."

While the dinner was in progress, about 100 demonstrators joined Sir Bertrand Russell outside Buckingham Palace to throw insults at the Greeks and their leaders. We were shocked and surprised, and we asked ourselves why? Did he want the Greeks to abandon the Mediterranean to the Russians and create a new Iron Curtain? Why did he dislike us so much? We were very upset when some of our friends went out into the street and asked some of the demonstrators why they were shouting anti-Greek catch-phrases to be told that the Greeks had fought with the Nazis during the war! We had suffered greatly fighting against the Nazis. It was criminal to see educated people deceiving innocent youngsters in order to have them slander us. Luckily the Police came along and carted them all off.

The highlight of the Official Visit to London was the luncheon given by the Lord Mayor of London in the historical Guildhall in the City. The King stood up to reply to a toast, when all the official guests spontaneously rose to their feet and started to clap. As one veteran remarked the ovation was like none other he had ever heard. The message was loud and clear, Great Britain was delighted to have Greece back within the fold.

The King was quite overcome by the response and his glass in a toast to the assembled company: "Our heartfelt thanks go out to the people of London for the magnificent reception they gave us yesterday and today.... It was an impressive display which brushed aside every trivial attempt by irresponsible persons to create misunderstanding between our two people.

"When we were challenged by the vastly superior Axis powers we looked at Great Britain and saw ourselves.... I am proud that at a time when Great Britain was alone, when the whole of Europe lay defeated, when the United States and Russia had not as yet entered the war, we stood by you as you stood by us ... (cheers and applause, reverberated throughout the room). While here in London you were winning the first victories in the air, we in Greece were winning the first victories by land. (Loud cheers and several shouts of here,here ... The King paused before continuing.) ... During these months, inspired by each other's superhuman heroism, Britain and Greece formed an unseen union which spelled hope and freedom to a despairing world. I firmly believe that no shadow of past unhappy events nor the confused thinking of a few individuals can ever tear apart what was forged during the war. It is to this unseen union with our common ideals of freedom and democracy that I pledge my people and my faith."

This wonderful reception ended in a brilliant farewell, and those who had attended previous events for Heads of State felt this one outshone them all.



THE PRINCESS IRENE

Princess Irene is the third and youngest child of the late King Paul and Queen Frederica of the Hellenes. She was born in Cape Town, South Africa, on May 11, 1942. The late General Jan Smuts was one of her Godparents.

After the return of the Royal Family to Greece in 1946, Princess Irene attended a small school founded by her parents to enable her and her sister Princess Sofia to come into contact with children from all sections of the community. Later she continued her studies at Salem School. The Princess has a keen interest in archaeology; with her sister she has carried out excavations at Tatoi, near the Royal Residence. Many specimens of Greek pottery were unearthed, and the Princesses published two short essays on their finds.

Princess Irene is particularly fond of classical music and sings in a young people's choir which she founded with Princess Sofia. She is a very competent pianist and has performed at charity concerts. Sailing, swimming and photography are among her favourite pastimes.

King Paul and Queen Frederica hosted a farewell dinner at Claridge's Hotel. It was felt that the Embassy was too small for such a grand reception, and that the Hotel would be a more appropriate venue, particularly since it was King George's Headquarters during the Second World War. The King and Queen had brought with them from Athens the Royal gold dinner service to bedeck the table. This was much admired. It was a splendid evening. Both Queen Elizabeth and Queen Frederica looked superb adorned in magnificent gowns and wearing scintillating jewellery. Queen Frederica was wearing the Greek Crown Jewels, a wedding present to Queen Olga on the occasion of her wedding to George I, from Edward Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) the Tsar of Russia and the Emperor of Austria. Queen Frederica later took the emerald tiers from the Crown and made a necklace. King Paul and his cousin Prince Philip spent an enjoyable evening together. It certainly was a "Rencontre Cordiale." Strong bonds joined them. Their respective families were intertwined over the centuries. This culmination of the visit reiterated the bonds that existed between the two countries. All in all it was a very happy occasion

Among the guests at that farewell dinner in Claridge's were General R. Scobie and Admiral Cunningham, both men had strong connections with Greece forged when they served during the war. The General had been in Athens during the Communist Revolt of 1945, and had become very popular to the extent that his admirers were called "Scobites" by the communists.

I approached Scobie and meekly muttered:

"General I am a Scobite ..." He laughed and inquired:

"Were you in Greece at that time?" I answered in the affirmative, and added that I would be interested to hear more about those war years. I also told him how proud I was that Queen Elizabeth had presented my husband with the "KCVO" ... Scobie then suggested that he call over Admiral Cunningham, and between them they would be able to tell me all I wanted to know. The Admiral came over and joined us, and so did Queen Frederica, and Cunningham told us his story:

"I was on board ship in Greek waters, under orders from the Admiralty, the war was still on and a group of Greek Communists had teamed up with a squad of Germans, who had been left behind by their retreating army. They fought against us and were slaughtering the Greeks, that's to say the real Greeks, the ones fighting on the Allied side. Those Communists presented themselves as heroes, and were very cleverly illustrating their case to the world, in the name of Greek freedom. This picture of Byronic idealism was very attractive to a lot of people, and I think many were fooled."

The Queen interrupted at that point, saying:

"It never crossed my mind, really, ... The clever way the Communists presented their case, I suppose we were all too tied up in the awful truth of it all!"

Scobie politely agreed and took over the story:

"The situation was very cruel. Villages were burned. People were assassinated in the street and in their homes. The Averoff prison was full of people, most of whom were the cream of society. Intellectuals, professional men and the leaders of business. Some of these people had saved our men, by hiding them in their houses to protect them from capture by the Germans, often at great risk to themselves."

"All those inmates of the prison had been rounded up by the Communist and accused of collaborating with the Germans. I was very annoyed by the unfairness of it all. I tried various moves to get them out, but they came to nothing, so I decided to radio my friend Cunningham about it."

The Admiral paused for thought and continued with his side of events:

"I remember it was during the afternoon that I received an urgent message from Ronald Scobie, asking me to bring my ship into Phaliron Bay to render assistance as soon as possible. Since Ronald had contacted me himself, I assumed the situation was serious. We arrived in Phaliron at about midnight. An armoured car was waiting at the berth, and drove me to Athens. The sound of gunfire was clearly audible, but the streets seemed deserted. I arrived at the HQ in the "Grande Bretagne Hotel" and found Ronald in a dimly lit room pouring over maps of Greece with a handful of British and Greek Officers, after the usual greetings, we got down to business. The General pointed out to me, that we just couldn't stand by and let these people suffer, we had to do something, and was I prepared to help, but I was in a bit of a quandary. You understand that I was a naval man and needed the Admiralty's go-ahead before I got involved in something like this. Ronald clinched it, when he asked me whether it was worth living if one deserted one's friends. I had no alternative but to agree to help him, under those circumstances. So I joined them. We then got hold of General Tsakalotos to give us a hand. "

I was fascinated by the Story and asked:

"If I understand it, you acted without orders from the top, is that so?" It was Scobie who replied:

"What soldier needs these pips (pointing to the stars on his uniform) if he betrays his brave friends."

He took a sip from his drink and went on:

"Shortly afterwards Winston Churchill sent me a message telling me not to

hesitate to act as if I were in an occupied city with a rebellion in progress, and that it was imperative that we hold and subdue Athens. Churchill suggested that this should be accomplished without bloodshed, if possible, but if it were necessary, so be it."

On the evening previous to the Farewell Dinner, the King and Queen had attended a Royal performance at the Aldwych Theatre of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". When we all left the theatre, there was another group of protesters in the street, shouting: "Nazi and Fascist" after us. Again the press rose to the cry and questions were asked in the House of Commons. Clement Atlee remarked that it was:

A Communist stunt, and the Home-Secretary Mr. Brook explained:

"This is the work of five hundred people or so, who have made up these stupid demonstrations ... it's the work of a handful of Communists and anarchists. The people of London are ashamed of it." Later he said:

"There are 50 million decent people in this country ... and it is distressing that this country's reputation should be tarnished by an irresponsible vociferous minority."

The next day Queen Frederica left Lancaster House at 12.30 pm on the arm of the Foreign Secretary Lord Home, and remarked to him:

"The decision to come to Britain was the right one, absolutely right. I am not worried about those few people who demonstrated. The memory I have is of the warm reception we were given during our arrival and yesterday for lunch at the Guildhall."

On July 12th, King Paul and Queen Frederica left London and returned to Athens. On their return home the King announced:

"The success of the State Visit marked the beginning of a new happy era in Anglo-Greek relations...."

Earlier in the year, there had been another Royal Visit. On February 2nd, 1963 King Paul and Queen Frederica paid an official visit to India and Thailand. During the visit they met a group of Indian philosophers. For the Queen this was her first introduction to the concept of Indian philosophy, and she became interested in discussing the ideas and analyzing their thoughts. King Paul alluded to the subject in a speech he made:

"... Even the principles of the Christian faith have roots in the rich soil of the goodness and love of the Indian soul."

The King's speech caused some consternation amongst the hierarchy of the



Prince Constantine of Greece kissing the icon of the Holy Virgin of Tinos.

Greek Orthodox Church, and he was asked to explain what he had meant. When he did this they were satisfied that he was merely paying a compliment to Indian philosophy and nothing more.

So the year 1963 drew to an end. New Year's eve found us as always at the big celebration held in Chamberlain Levidis' house in the Athens suburb of Harvati. It was a sparkling reception as always, and as the New Year was born, the King and Queen went around to everyone present to wish them a "Happy New Year". We spent the first hours of 1964 dancing the traditional dances of Greece. The foreign Ambassadors and their wives joined in, and it was interesting to note that among them were some of the best dancers of our assembled company, Lady Norton, wife of the British Ambassador was a particular case in point.

When King Paul arose to dance, we noticed grimaces of pain in his expression. After a few moments he sat down excusing himself saying that he was suffering from sciatica. He was evidently in discomfort and left the party early. We thought nothing of it as he had suffered with his back for some time, and felt everything was as usual.

The Queen was due to leave Greece on January 15th to go to the United States to receive an honorary doctorate from Columbia University. She felt that she should stay with her husband as he was still in much pain, but he insisted that she should go ahead with her trip as planned, and promised that he would invite his sister Helen (Queen Mother of Rumania) to keep him company during the Queen's absence. Although concerned, Frederica left for the United states as scheduled.

The Ceremony at Columbia was set for Wednesday January 22nd. The Press release below puts the events into context, explaining how she came to receive her degree:

"News Office
Columbia University
New York. 10027.

For use in PM papers of
Saturday, Jan
Sunday papers, Jan.19th."

"Queen Frederica of Greece will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at a special convocation at Columbia University on Wednesday (January 22nd).

The exercise will be held at 4 pm in the Rotunda of Low Memorial Library, on the Morningside Heights campus. Queen Frederica will be presented for the award by Dr. Rosemary Park, President of the Barnard College, and the degree will be conferred by Dr. Grayson Kirk, President of Columbia. The Queen is expected to make a brief response

Dr. John M. Krumm, chaplain of the University, will deliver the invocation, and the benediction will be by the Most Reverend Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the



Official engagement of Prince Constantine with Princess Anne-Marie of Denmark. Amongst those present were the King and Queen of Greece, the King and Queen of Denmark, Queen Mother of Rumania, Queen Sofia of Spain and King Harold of Norway.

Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, who has his headquarters in New York City.

Queen Frederica will be accompanied by her daughter, Princess Irene, and members of her staff.

The Queen was invited by the Presidents of Columbia and Barnard College to receive the honorary degree in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Barnard. Though Columbia has granted the Bachelor of Arts degree to more than 13,000 graduates of Barnard, the University's affiliated liberal arts college for women, Columbia University has never before awarded an honorary degree upon nomination by Barnard.

The decision to invite the Queen was made by the College's 75th anniversary Committee. Mrs. Mark Van Doren, of Fall's Village, Connecticut, chairman of the anniversary committee, said that "Barnard's long association with the classical tradition and the College's ties with Greece through 61 years of Greek games prompted the invitation to the Queen."

Queen Frederica and Dean Rusk, United States Secretary of State will be guests of honour at Barnard's seventy-fifth anniversary dinner at 7.30 pm Wednesday (January 22nd) in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria

Secretary Rusk will be the principal speaker, and there will be greetings from Dr. Kirk and Dr. Park.

Queen Frederica's visit to Columbia will be her third. She came to Columbia in 1953 when her husband King Paul, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters during their State Visit to the United States."

The press release continued:

"Her second visit was in 1958, when she made a personal trip to the United states with a desire to visit some American Universities, "particularly where they teach nuclear physics." On that occasion she inspected Columbia's Pupil Physics Laboratories, site of the country's first experiments on the splitting of the uranium atom. She emphasised at that time her interest was in the peaceful use of atomic energy."

The Presentation took place as planned, when Dr. Rosemary Park, President of Barnard College, in presenting Queen Frederica of Greece to Dr. Grayson Kirk, President of Columbia University, for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, said:

"On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Barnard College, I take pleasure as its President in presenting you a distinguished woman for



At the official ceremony of the coming of age of Crown Prince Cosntantine, King Paul addressed his son as follows:

"God has graciously destined you to reign over this glorious, gallant and noble Nation of ours. This divine favour given to you, is an outstanding mark of honour and a legacy of great responsability. As from this day you shall be my partner in the endeavour to further the progress and well-being of my People. .... Be the protector and guardian of our Holy Church. Draw your strength from the love between you and your people.

Redress offence by pardon, Discord by unity, Error by truth, Doubt by faith.

I pray that you and my People may know days of glory in the noble struggle for progress and civilization. May God Almighty make you an instrument of peace and always keep guard over Greece and over you, Constantine."

its honorary degree of Doctor of Law. The highest honour in the power of Columbia University to bestow, I respectfully request you to accord to the Queen of the Hellenes, Frederica.

Her Majesty ascended the throne of Greece with her husband in 1947, at a time when her country had been laid waste by the ravages of war and civil dissension. Through those next fateful years the Queen took a vital part in the struggle to preserve Greece as one of the western powers. In the full consciousness that the western world owes its democracy and its rationality to the genius of Hellas - this genius which it is our privilege as an educational institution to cherish and to deepen - and in token of our dedication to it, we honour today the Queen of Greece.

It is not only in this symbolic function that I present Her Majesty. As Queen of a country which has experienced most of the vicissitudes of history in its own development and is emerging now into a modern industrialized world, Her Majesty found her nation facing a multitude of complicated problems. She might have left the definition of these difficulties and their solution entirely to others. Quite beyond the call of even royal obligation, however, she has chosen to know the condition of her people and has striven to ameliorate it and to press for continuing improvement through her own charitable works."

"More importantly, she has served as leader in directing attention to the necessities of education and of social betterment in numerous projects.

In recent years she has encouraged the examination of the uses of atomic energy as an aid to the economy of her country and to follow this concern she has travelled widely in the United States and Europe.

The obligations of royalty are proverbial, no less today than in the past, but each individual may choose to modify or restrict the duties of the Crown in accordance with personal desire. As a wife and mother, it would have been easy for Her Majesty to consider her responsibilities thus circumscribed. She did not choose to make the more conventional interpretation of a consort's life and has, by her energy and intellectual interest, her sympathy and charity, become a truly modern Queen.

Her achievements for which we honour her today, are not ascribable merely to the accident of birth, but rather to qualities which many women must cultivate today: perseverance, courage, intellectual concern. It is, then, as a woman who combines the historic commitments of women with the discharge of heavy public responsibilities for leadership within a sovereign and friendly nation that I present for the degree of Doctor of Law, *honoris causa*, Frederica, Queen of the Hellenes."

In conferring the degree on Queen Frederica, Dr. Grayson Kirk, President of Columbia University, said:

"Frederica, Queen of the Hellenes, leader of Greek women, resident of Athens, keen patroness of advanced studies of physics and the philosophy of science, Columbia University welcomes you at request of Barnard College for women, which bears on its seal the image of Athena and a motto from the Greek philosopher Plato: "Following the way of reason".

"Abetted by Your Majesty's personal interest, the progress of modern Greece in science and social planning is manifest to all who visit your beautiful land.

The very name of the Greek Nuclear Research Centre, Democritos, reminds the world that the concerns of the ancient Greek philosophers are today the problems of modern science."

"Barnard College in its seventy-fifth anniversary year is proud to trace its curriculum of arts and sciences to classical Greek philosophers, poets, mathematicians, artists, lawyers and dramatists.

Your tireless activities in repairing the ravages of war, your sincere interest in the frontiers of science, and your noble determination to advance the lot of your people are admirable examples of the benevolent influence of modern women.

With fraternal greetings, Columbia University bestows upon you the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*."

The Queen on receiving her degree responded:

"With all my heart I thank you for the great honour you have done me today. I accept this honour in the name of all the women of Greece.

I would like to assure you that I have come here today on the seventy-fifth anniversary of your great College to pay tribute to all its members and through them to the women of the United States. Ever since the founder of your great College understood the need for women to share in the intellectual education of your nation, this country if not the world, has benefited from the service of many a great woman who were educated within these walls.

In your citation you mention my interest in social welfare and science.

Social welfare is the mission which, owing to my position, I am called upon to fulfill. The terrible suffering of my people from the horrors of the last war and the heartbreaking experience of a Communist invasion has turned this mission into a dedication. In order to understand just part of the tremendous tragedy of my people we need only to remember that twenty-eight thousand of our children were taken

away by force behind the Iron Curtain, out of a population of only eight million, not much more than that of the city of New York.

I saw so much sorrow in my life that I looked to find comfort in the wisdom of the ancient philosophers. But this was not enough for the many questions that troubled my mind, so my search brought me to nuclear physics."

"As far as the layman can judge I am convinced nuclear physics has made it possible for us to view our universe in a new and brighter light. Scientists have told us that matter is Energy and Energy is Matter. In other words the world we see and the world we do not see are fundamentally one. Also the so-called Uncertainty principle seems to have linked forever the observer with the object of observation.

The philosophic implication of these two discoveries alone is the basis upon which we can build a more unified outlook on life. This atomic age, instead of presenting us only with the horrors of the bomb and a picture of total disintegration, carries a spiritual message of unity, a fusion of the seen and unseen world. This knowledge should make us understand man's fundamental Oneness, through Matter, Life and Mind, with his fellow human beings, the Universe and God.

I earnestly believe this is a benevolent universe where all of us will one day find each other united in one brotherhood, where service to others will mean as much as service to self.

I believe this is the mission of all the women in the world today, and I am sure that the excellent training and educational opportunities which this great College offers to its students will greatly contribute to the understanding of our mission."

I arrived in New York shortly after the degree Ceremony, and during my stay was invited to a dinner party hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Silverman. Sam Silverman was on the board of trustees of Columbia University, and so amongst the guests was a good mixture, of the faculty of the University. Professor Haangerisen was one of those present, and he told me how surprised he had been by Queen Frederica's knowledge of nuclear physics.

This knowledge went before her and she was invited by the Greek Nuclear Research Centre "Democritos" to serve as honorary President of Physicists. This was a great honour but she declined her services, as there were others far better qualified than she to take on the post, feeling that it would be much better if it were offered to a Greek Professor working in a Greek University.

Whilst In New York Queen Frederica was very worried about her husband's health. The King's sister Queen Helen, made it a habit to come over to our house every afternoon during the King's siesta, said she was getting very anxious because



King Constantine acceded to the throne of Greece on 6th March, 1964 on the death of his father, King Paul.
He acted as Regent on several occasions during his father's reign.

the pains the King was suffering were not the usual ones. I told her that, it really was time a doctor was consulted. She explained that "Fredy" (Queen Frederica) was also worried about the pains and telephoned at least twice a day, but "Palo" (King Paul) did not want her to come home until she had finished her obligations in the United States.

The Queen was not at all happy about the state of her husband's health, and she suddenly cut short her visit to return to Athens shortly after the Ceremony at Columbia University.

Her flight touched down at Athens Airport on the morning of Monday February 3rd, and her son Prince Constantine was waiting to meet her at the airport, and then drive her back to Tatoi. Frederica only had a hazy notion of what her husband's illness might be, but an inner voice warned her that something was seriously wrong. Almost in tears she turned to her son, trying hard to keep a sob from her voice, whispering:

"Tino, Papa must not die!" This shocked Constantine who looked calmly and steadily at his mother:

"Of course not, why should he? You really must talk to the doctors", was his reply.

Later, whilst speaking about this time Frederica, recalled:

"When I heard those words, my soul died!"

As the car swept down the drive at Tatoi, there was the King standing at he door to welcome his wife home. He put a brave face on his troubles, and that evening expressed a wish to watch a film. Half-way through the show he was doubled up with agony, and had to leave the movie to go to bed. Frederica selected a bedroom on the ground floor as she saw that climbing the stairs was too difficult for him. She then asked to see the doctors who had been treating him. Dr. Manos and Dr. Doxiades told her his condition was serious, but were somewhat evasive. She asked them straight out what was wrong with her husband, and they hesitantly told her that the King had cancer.

The King's surgeon, Dr. Manos, informed the Queen that it was imperative her husband have an operation as soon as possible, and named several eminent surgeons from all over Europe whom he felt the King should go and see. Paul consented to the operation, but insisted it should be carried out in Greece. He was not prepared to go away to Sweden or Switzerland for treatment. However, there was also another problem, elections were due to be held on Sunday 16th February, and the King insisted that the operation be postponed until after he had fulfilled his duty by swearing in the new Government.



King Constantine parading in Athens.

He decided that the operation be performed in Tatoi. Dr. Manos was reluctant to shoulder the responsibility of extracting a cancerous tumour from the King's stomach, and summoned from England two renowned specialists, Sir Stanford Cade of Westminster Hospital and Mr. Edward Muir, surgeon to the British Royal Family to assist him in the complex surgery.

Three days before the elections, the King declared that he felt well enough to go for a drive. He wanted to see the sea and the sailing boats that he loved so much. Paul was feeling somewhat weak so Prince Constantine took the wheel. The trip down to Phaliron was the last time the family saw the sea together. I remember the Queen telling me later that she could never look at the Saroricus Bay without bringing to mind that last drive with her husband. In fact it affected her so deeply that she herself stopped sailing thereafter.

The elections on February 16th gave George Papandreou the chance he had been waiting for and he was returned as Prime Minister. On Wednesday the 19th King Paul administered the oath of office to the new Government. He did so in extreme agony. He leaned on Constantine's shoulder until he reached the drawing-room door at Tatoi, but entered and attended to the ceremony on his own accord. This his last public duty was performed like a soldier. He staggered from the room supported by the Crown Prince and Frederica. The doctors were waiting, and turning to them he said:

"Now Gentlemen I am at your disposition!"

The operation was scheduled for the next day.

The anesthetic was given at first light, whilst the strains of Handel's Messiah filled the room.

The surgery was long and complicated, lasting some six hours. We all prayed fervently for a successful outcome.

It seemed our prayers were answered. The King made good progress and it seemed that the operation had been a success.

On the afternoon of Sunday March 1st, The King was sitting up in bed reading, when he gave a sudden gasp of pain and fell back onto his pillows. He had been struck down by a pulmonary embolism in his left lung. He clung on to life though, filling his sick room with the music of Bach and Handel.

Very sick, the King asked that the Holy Ikon of "Our Lady's Annunciation" from Tinos be brought to his bedside. The Archbishop of Athens gave his permission, and the Ikon was dispatched to Piraeus. Prince Constantine drove to the port to collect



King Simeon of Bulgaria and Lilika Papanicolaou, God-parents to the child of Princess Chantal of Bourbon–Parme.

the holy relic, and rushed it to Tatoi. He brought the Ikon to the King's death bed. Paul raised himself from his pillows, devoutly crossed himself three times and kissed the Ikon. Father Ieronimos then delivered the last rites. Paul gave his last will and testament to Frederica, asking her not to interfere when their son Constantine became King. To his son he made him promise to be faithful to the Greek Orthodox religion, keep the Constitution and at all times respect the will of his people, and never forget that his strength came from the love of the people.

The family stood round the bed, whilst Frederica held the King's hand. Smiling, he looked her in the eye, and spoke:

"A thousand thanks for everything."

"I thank you for having chosen me," was her humble reply. The room became very still. With that he slipped away from life on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 4th 1964.

Queen Frederica had lost her husband, but Greece had lost a King who loved the Country more than himself. I was told that the American Ambassador informed his staff:

"Greece has lost her King, the Allies have lost a friend and the world has lost a rare human being."

The coffin lay in state at the Palace. We all filed past to pay our last respects. A feeling of deep sorrow spread throughout the land. The King had become a symbol of good. His spirit of goodness had helped us triumph over evil. It almost seemed that he had brought us luck. His troubled reign had seen Greece stand up against the Communist insurgents, and defeat those guerrilla bands. Her economy in ruins, Greece had risen again through a period of reconstruction into an era of prosperity. I feared that his death might rob us of this post-war affluence.

The funeral service for King Paul took place in Athens Cathedral on Thursday March 12th. Frederica, the grieving widow, was accompanied by her children, Prince Constantine, Princess Irene and Princess Sofia along with her husband Prince Don Juan Carlos of Spain. There were immediate relatives, the Prime Minister George Papandreou, the Ministers of the Cabinet, high ranking members of the military and the diplomatic corps.

Frederica led the mourners, wearing black and be-veiled. The other ladies dressed in black, the colour of mourning.

The funeral service completed, the coffin bearing the King's body was placed on a gun carriage drawn by sailors of the Royal Hellenic Navy. The cortège was

flanked by the evzones of the Royal Guard. Following the coffin was a solemn procession of relatives, world leaders along with members of the Greek Government. In that silent file were the Kings of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Belgium, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus, President Lubke of West Germany, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, Ladybird Johnson wife of the American President, the brother of the Shah of Iran, and touchingly the 80 year old former U.S.A. President, Harry S. Truman. As the cortège drew out of the centre of Athens, the naval ratings drawing the gun carriage were replaced by an army vehicle, which towed the coffin to Tatoi. Queen Frederica and her family accompanied the body to its final resting place, for it is within the grounds of Tatoi that all the graves of the Royal family are located. Queen Frederica bowed her head in sorrow, feeling that this was the end of her life too. As her husband's coffin was lowered into the ground her sense of loss was so great, she sensed that her soul accompanied his.

The King was buried next to his father, grandfather and brothers in a spot chosen by himself at the edge of a hill with a view of Mount Parnes. He could now rest easily since he had done his duty to his family and country. He had seen his daughter happily married to Don Juan Carlos. A year before his death his son, Constantine had become engaged to Anne-Maria the daughter of King Frederik and Queen Ingrid of Denmark. He had seen Greece return from the ashes of war to a land of prosperity. His duty done, he left this earth a happy man.

The Queen, now the Queen Mother had promised her husband and herself obedience to the new King Constantine, her son. Whilst speaking of those sad days, Frederica recalled Paul saying to her:

"I carry you in my heart forever and ever. We shall always be together, there is no separation, there is just one road, and you and I, we know this road." Continuing, she said:

"We know that the self unseen, and the God unseen, are like the father and son made unseen as One. I feel that Palo is me, in my spirit, in my thought, in my soul. He is there with me, I talk about him, and feel him near me. He is my last strength, we are still One ..."

NOTES

1. Mount Athos was given its distinctive form by the Emperor Nikephoros Phokas in the Tenth Century. All the Orthodox religions have monasteries there. This is why the monks of the holy mountain still use the two-headed eagle.
2. Anthony Abatielos and nine others were sentenced to death in 1948 for aiding the Communist Guerrillas in their armed rebellion against the State. Trade Union protests against these sentences were effectively scotched by the British Foreign Secretary Earnest Bevin.

3. "The allegation that these men are being prosecuted because they are trade unionists is quite unfounded. They have been brought to trial on specific charges of treason in aiding the rebels. Abatielos, for example was sentenced to death for recruiting and collecting for the bandits, not for trade union activities. He is of course, a well-known and active Communist." Those death sentences were subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. S. Abatielos was released some years later.

CHAPTER NINE

A New King, a New Era

> "I swear in the name of the
> Holy, Consubstantial and
> Indivisible Trinity to
> Protect the established
> religion of the Hellenes,
> to guard the Constitution
> and the laws of the Greek
> nation and to preserve and
> defend the national independence
> and territorial integrity
> of the Greek State."

The Oath taken by the King before ascending the throne on March 6th 1964. The Oath itself was taken in the Parliament Building, in the presence of the Archbishop of Greece and the Holy Synod, the Government and the Commanders in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Greece is a Constitutional Monarchy. This is stipulated in Article 21 of the Constitution which was promulgated in 1864 and revised in 1911 and 1952.

"The Greek Crown is hereditary by order of primogeniture through the line founded by King George I, priority being given to males. All Heirs to the throne must belong to the Greek Orthodox Church, which is the Established religion. If the Heir to the Throne is a minor at the time of succession, the widowed Queen exercises the Royal authority until the Heir attains majority, which is 18 years of age. The King may if necessary appoints as Regent the Heir to the Throne, or in the absence of one or if he is a minor, the Queen."

According to the Constitution: "the King is Supreme Authority of the State and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and his person is inviolable."

The Legislative Power is exercised by the King and Parliament. The Executive Power is vested in the King and is exercised by the Ministers appointed by him, but no act of the King is valid unless it is countersigned by the competent Minister, who becomes responsible by virtue of his signature alone.

The King appoints and dismisses Ministers. He sanctions and publishes Laws passed by Parliament and issues the Decrees necessary for the execution of the Law, but in no circumstances can he suspend the operation of the Law nor exempt anyone from the execution of the Law.

The King convokes Parliament in ordinary session once a year and in extraordinary session whenever he deems advisable. He has the right to dissolve Parliament, but the Decree of dissolution must at the same time order the holding of elections within 45 days and the re-convening of Parliament within three months of the dissolution. When Parliament is not sitting the King may issue Legislative Decrees dealing with urgent matters with the agreement of a Committee appointed for this purpose by Parliament at the commencement of each Session and composed of not less than one-fifth of the total number of Deputies.

The King has the right to pardon and to commute or reduce sentences passed by the Courts."

Article 44 of the Constitution lays down that:

"The King shall have no powers others than those explicitly assigned to him by the Constitution and by such Laws as are consistent with it. "

ΜΕ ΣΕΒΑΣ ΤΟΤΕ ΑΠΛΩΝΟΝΤΑΣ
Τ'ΑΓΝΟ ΣΟΥ ΧΕΡΙ ΑΠΑΝΩ
ΟΡΚΙΣΟΥ, ΩΣ ΝΑΧΕΣ.ΜΑΡΤΥΡΑ
ΤΟΝ ΕΝΔΟΞΟ ΝΕΚΡΟ
ΘΑ ΖΗΣΩ, ΘΑ ΠΕΘΑΝΩ
ΣΑΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΑΣ ΚΙ'ΕΓΩ
Γ. ΜΑΡΚΟΡΑΣ ΔΙΑ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟ Ι

Raise with respect your hand
Witnessed by this glorious dead
Take the oath
I will live and die
A Hellene.
G. Markoras, written for George I.

On taking the oath, the King commenced at once with his duties, he was only 24 years old, and we all wondered if he had the maturity to cope with the wiles of the politicians who surrounded him. In the elections of November 3rd 1963, the results although inconclusive showed a definite swing. George Papandreou's Centre Union Party, gained 138 out of the 300 seats in Parliament. Constantine Karamanlis was very pessimistic about the outcome, and that:

"... the election result had greatly complicated the situation, he warned, and those who wished to oversimplify it were the victims of miscalculations."[1]

There was no way in which Karamanlis's E.R.E. would co-operate with George Papandreou's Centre Union to form a coalition Government. So Papandreou as leader of the largest party in the House was asked by the King to form a Government. He felt confident that this would be successful, despite the fact his Party only had 6 seats more than his rival Karamanlis. The new Prime Minister's thinking was that other deputies would defect from their own political parties to his. In this he was mistaken. A rumour began to circulate that Karamanlis wanted to retire from politics and leave the country.

I remember a dinner party at Chamberlain Levidis's house that November. The King already ill, was there and so was Mr. Karamanlis.

The King asked the ex-Prime Minister:

"I hear that there are rumours running around that you intend to leave the Country. Mr. Karamanlis, don't forget the country and Government needs a strong Opposition. After all this is democracy."

Karamanlis apologised to the King, saying:

"... Not at all Your Majesty, I spoke in a moment of agitation."

On the 9th of December 1963, Constantine Karamanlis announced his retirement from politics, and boarded an aeroplane under the false name of Mr. Triantafyldis, and with his wife flew off to Paris. He left his party in the hands of Panayotis Kanellopoulos. The adherents of E.R.E., the successors to Laikon, felt they had been deserted.

George Papandreou the proponent of "The Unyielding Struggle" (Anendotosagon) realised it was impossible to govern with his slim majority, and resigned after only 8 weeks in office. New elections were called for February 16th, when he was returned with 174 seats, giving him a comfortable majority in Parliament.

Every politician needs a victim to enhance his position, because by deflecting public opinion away from his own defects, he can thus extricate himself from furore

with the minimum loss of prestige. Hitler and Stalin manipulated the press in this way to their mutual advantage, and others were to follow this example.

Queen Frederica had experienced a "bad" press[2] in the past, but a new concerted barrage of criticism was launched against her. In one of the taped interviews Frederica gave to Hourmouzios, she explained, these newspaper attacks, saying that the Government had offered her a pension, which she refused due to the press outcry, but even this did not satisfy the critics, with one editor proclaiming:

"Frederica always has to have the last word."

The Government did not try to shield her from these verbal assaults, so she asked her Chamberlain Pavlos Leloudas to take her letter, declining the pension, to the Prime Minister, at the same time she asked for a degree of protection from the press. George Papandreou, ignored her request, at the same time issuing a statement stating:

"She is a private person, and has no need of protection from the Constitution; therefore I ignore her letter".

In her own letter to the Premier, the Queen Mother declined to leave Greece and the people she had loved and served for so many years. This important statement was later removed when the letter was made public. The attacks, however, against her were unfair, but they continued unabated. Greek sensitivity (Filotimo) was deeply offended, because the protection of widows and orphans is a spiritual law of the Greek people.

In order to find precedents Greeks have a long history to which to turn. When Socrates (470-399BC) was accused of interference in politics, he replied:

"I never took part in politics as that office would compromise my principles."

Later when he stood before his insignificant prosecutor charged with "corruption of the young" and "neglect of the Gods", he was subsequently convicted by 280 votes to 220, by the so-called Democrats Anytus and Meletus.

In effect the death sentence was imposed as a gesture on the part of his prosecutors, an empty show of strength in order to demonstrate their new found power at the expense of Pericles. This boast of theirs demonstrated only one thing, Greece lost a fine man, and found a blot on her history. The name of Socrates lives on, but Anytus and Meletus are forgotten.

Socrates was clearly a man of deep piety with the temperament of a mystic. A thinker who saw God as:



King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie. They were married on 18th September, 1964 amid scenes of great rejoicing and joyful manifestations of popular affection.

"The all-wise and all-good ruler of the world."

Someone who felt:

"The soul of man partakes of the Divine."

Is there a connection here between Frederica and Socrates, I wonder!

The King started his reign, the Parliamentary problems still plagued us all. I wonder if ever Greek Politics should become tranquil, what would happen to the Greek people robbed of their need of contradicting.

I remember meeting Bernard Shaw at the Randolph Hotel in Oxford some time in 1945. Sitting in the Hotel lounge close to Shaw, who was as always surrounded by a bevy of people, deep in conversation, we were interrupted by one of Shaw's group who said:

"You are Greeks!" Surprised, we concurred and were invited to sit at Shaw's table.

I told him:

"The Greeks have a sort of madness."

Shaw quickly retorted:

"Do not forget, Madam, I am Irish!"

Later our original interlocutor, who happened to be a retired Professor of Oxford University, told us:

"If you did not have that madness, you would not have survived through the centuries. You would have disappeared like the Hittites".

I reminded him of the philosophy of Plato, who says in the "Philea" that dialogue has to be aggressive in order to exchange ideas and reach a point. If there is complete agreement, there is no argument. Like two parallel lines they run together until death. I am often reminded of the words of that old Gentleman, when I listen to, and thoroughly enjoy the arguments taking place in parliament. This is in our construction, and is imbedded deep in our genes. Socrates told us to:

"Know thyself", and the intervening centuries have given us ample opportunity to do just this.

Before King Paul's death he had pioneered the idea of bringing together some of the best brains in the world, in an annual convocation, which was to be known as "The Symposium of Athens." Sadly, Paul never lived to see his dream become a reality. Instead, King Constantine decided to fulfill his father's wish. The Symposium convened on June 3rd 1964 at the Pnyka in the Acropolis. It was from here that St. Paul first spoke to the people of the City.

In his opening address to the assembled delegates, the King welcomed everybody by saying:

"Your presence here is a happy event! inspired by the noble thoughts and ideals that pushed my Father to inaugurate the notion of this Symposium. He was a thinker King, a man who embraced the ideas of philosophy."

There were 10 principal speakers and others who addressed the gathering during the week of its convocation.

Lord Adrian the joint winner of the 1932 Nobel Prize for Medicine for his discoveries regarding the neurone, talked of the "research of the Spirit".

Werner Heisenberg won the 1932 Nobel Prize for Physics and spoke on the "Natural World and the Atom". In his lecture, he began:

"From this spot of the world came Levkippos and Democritos who were the first to consider the possibility of splitting the atom. Socrates and Plato continued to speak in the same vein."

John H. Finlay Jnr, a Greek Historian from Harvard University had this to say:

"Here we are a meeting of the Athenians. Some were born here and others of us possess the same spirit."

Hideki Yukawa, Japanese winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1949 started his address in this way:

"I come from a land far away, and the first time I encountered the thinking of Ancient Greece was through the works of Lau-Tse and Chuang-Tse which I read when I was thirteen years old. They made a lasting impression on me, and this was my first introduction to Greek philosophy."

The French Academician and Minister André Malraux also gave a wonderful lecture. It was half prayer and half speech, that held us all riveted. I wonder if the "Symposium" still meets annually, as was the original intention? I was shocked when I saw the celebrations of 2,500 years of Democracy. Nothing very much happened.

What was the role of the President, the State and the luminaries of the intelligentsia in this non-event? If France can commemorate the two-hundredth anniversary of the Revolution in a grand manner, why couldn't Greece have celebrated an event which had a tremendous impact on the whole world, in a more befitting style?

If King Paul and Queen Frederica were still alive, or King Constantine and Queen Anna-Maria had not been deposed, and still occupied the throne, the Monarchy still in place, I wonder if the 2,500th anniversary of the birth of Democracy would have slipped by, almost un-noticed ?

The words of Aristotle come at once to mind:

"The King's aim is the interest of the State...
The Tyrant, his own ... "

Aristotle (Politics).

Ο ΒΑΣΙΛΕΨΥΣ ΤΟ ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΟΜΕΝΩΝ ΣΨΥΜφΕΠΡΟΝ ΣΚΟΠΕΙ ... ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ ΔΕ ΤΟ ΕΑΥΤΟΥ ΣΥΜφΕΡΟΝ

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΑ

Life in Greece went on as ever. We continued our duties working for the TM Fund. I went up to Kavalla to see the site where the new Paedopolis was to be built. There were still many orphaned children in the region. The old building had previously served as a home for the elderly, but how was destined to return to its old usage. So we had to set about constructing something new for the children. My task completed, I returned to Athens; shortly afterwards went for lunch at the Royal Hellenic Yacht Club. During the meal the conversation turned once again to politics (and smalletics!). A lady member of our party pleaded that we all stop discussing politics, requested that we talk about something more elegant. The topic turned to the forthcoming marriage of Constantine to Princess Anna-Maria of Denmark. It seemed that the King of Denmark would bring his daughter to Greece aboard his yacht the "Dannenborg". Someone suggested that all those with boats sail out into the waters of Saronico to greet the Royal visitors. We all thought this was a splendid idea, and set about organising ourselves so we could give the new Queen and her family a warm and spontaneous welcome.

When the day came we all boarded the yacht of a friend and sailed of to the entrance of the Corinth Canal. We reached our destination in time for lunch. A small flotilla began to gather. We were able to shout greetings to one another with loud hailers. All the boats flew Greek and Danish flags at full mast colourfully decorated with bunting. All those boats bobbing at anchor made a beautiful sight.

Amassed and ready to salute the Danish King's yacht as it emerged from the Canal, we had not long to wait, and there it was, slowly nosing its way out of the canal, flags flying and bunting dancing in the breeze. As the Danish vessel plied in to the Mediterranean waters that bright, sunny afternoon, our little armada began to wave flags and blow whistles by way of welcome. Local fishing boats sailed over and attached themselves to our seaborne jubilee, joining the chorus of greeting with their pipes and sirens. Our noisy convoy accompanied the "Dannenborg" as she made her way to Phaliron harbour, growing larger and larger as smaller boats and fishing vessels joined the committee of welcome. Yachts drew ahead of the Danes, throwing flowers into her path. As they docked cheers of good wishes echoed about the quayside, and a twenty-one gun salute was fired as the young Anna-Maria set foot on Greek soil. There were shouts of, "Long live our young Queen!", as Constantine came forward to kiss his bride to be. As they embraced sailors yelled:

"We're giving you our most handsome man!"

Off they went, laughing and thanking everybody for the wonderful greeting to Greece. The rest of us turned the arrival into a huge cocktail party, going from one boat to another to toast one another with champagne.

The wedding preparations were on a grand scale. All the crowned heads of Europe were expected. The precedent had been set when Princess Sofia married Prince Juan Carlos, when we saw that Greece could compete with the best in Royal events. A round of receptions commenced. The King and Queen Mother were determined that all levels of society from Prime Minister to University professors, to businessmen, to the arts, to civil servants and school-teachers be included as far as possible. The receptions were representative of all levels of local society. An opportunity was afforded for all to meet the young King and his beautiful bride in order to congratulate them and wish them well for the future.

The first of these receptions was held in the gardens of Tatoi. There were almost 500 guests present. Another on September 13th hosted approximately the same number as did a third on September 14th.

It is never possible to please all of the people all of the time. Shortly after the wedding I met a the young son of a friend of my husband's who complained that his name had been left off the invitations to the receptions. He felt very slighted, becoming an anti-royalist as a consequence.

The grandest of these receptions was the one held at the Royal Palace. There was a banquet for forty people, which was followed by a reception for 200 more. This occasion was the preserve of the Royal Family and their friends. What a wonderful evening that was, as the Kings and Queens of Europe came down the central staircase, we gasped in admiration of the gowns and glittering diamonds. Queen



Athens, 18th September, 1964 – The wedding of King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie.

Juliana of the Netherlands' Crown had as its centre-piece a diamond as large as an egg. The Queen Mother gave her daughter-in-law the crown Jewels of Greece, and Anna-Maria appeared wearing the exotic pieces, decorated with diamonds and emeralds.

The wedding ceremony took place on the morning of Friday, September 18th. The day dawned with a twenty-one gun salute resounding over the city of Athens. All the guests had to be seated in the Metropolis Cathedral of Athens at 10 that morning. The Prime Minister was seated with his Cabinet, so were the members of the Supreme Court, the Academy of Athens, the top ranks of the Armed Forces splendidly attired in their ceremonial uniforms, and the Diplomatic Corps also in full dress. After this came the procession comprising the Royal Families of Europe and elsewhere. First came Prince Juan Carlos and Princess Sofia of Spain, the sister and brother-in-law of the groom. Then his aunt, the Queen Mother of Rumania. She was followed by Constantine's second cousin, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Duke's young son, Prince Charles. Behind them came the Crown Prince and Princess of Luxembourg, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco and the Prince and Princess of Liechtenstein. Later came King Boudouin and Queen Fabiola of the Belgians, Queen Juliana and Prince Bernard of the Netherlands, the King and Queen of Thailand, King Olav and the Crown-Prince of Norway, the King and Queen of Sweden, Princess Ann of Great Britain, Princess Irene of Greece, Princess Christine of Sweden, Princess Margarita of Rumania and the Princesses Klarissa and Tatiana.

All the Ladies in Waiting lined up on the Cathedral steps, waiting for the bride. Tradition demands that the groom arrives first. King Constantine accompanied by the Queen Mother, alighted from their car and walked up the steps. Taking his place at the back of the Metropolis to await his bride. The King appeared blissfully happy, a joy that overshadowed the sadness of the Queen, standing at the side of her son, in the place of her recently dead husband. Then the bride appeared. Lightly grasping her father's arm, she was conducted by him to the altar. The bridal dress was stunning. The mass began. Frederica took her place behind the wedding couple, in her role as "Matron of Honour".

The Marriage ceremony, part of the Greek Orthodox liturgy, is not only the oldest in Christian tradition but also the most majestic. The wedding was performed by the Archbishop of Greece, accompanied by twelve bishops, all wearing vestments stitched in gold, their mitres decorated with precious stones.

The pages Prince Charles, Prince Harold of Norway, Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, Prince Ingolf of Denmark, Prince Louis of Baden, Prince Michael of Kent, Prince Charles of Hesse and Prince Michael of Greece, passed the wedding crowns from one to another.

When Archbishop Chrysostomos joined together the hands of King Constantine and Anna-Maria, the choir sang "Rejoice O Isaiah". The bride and the groom then

walked in a circle making the sign of the cross, being followed by the Archbishop and the bishops of the Holy Synod. As they walked back down the aisle rose petals and rice showered upon the procession as they passed from pew to pew. The bells of the churches of Athens began to peal, and a 101 gun salute was fired from the Lyeabetus Hill. It was a joyous occasion, but one key figure was missing. Perhaps, the statuesque figure of King Paul attended in spirit, blessing his children and walking beside his wife.

As the ceremony ended, Frederica bowed to the King and new Queen. We the veterans of the Palace felt tears coming to our eyes. A new era and a brand new page of history had opened for Greece. King Constantine and Queen Anna-Maria left the church hand in hand.

An open, blue landau, drawn by six grey horses was waiting at the Cathedral steps to drive them through the crowds lining the streets of central Athens. As they drew away the people cheered, shouting "Na Zisete!" (Long Life!) It was a fairy tale wedding. The ceremonies were reminiscent of the days of Byzantium, evoking the majestic splendour of the past. It was a day to remember, forever.

The wedding over, Greece had a beautiful Queen, who looked forward to playing her new role in her new country. Now the Queen Mother had to pass on her duties to the new Queen. Another era began for her, too. She resigned from all her charities and positions of responsibility to make way for Anna-Maria. This gave the young Queen scope to implant her own ideas and room to attract a new corps of young volunteers to work with her. In her farewell letter to her companions in TM Fund and other associated charities Frederica wrote:

Royal Palace, Athens.

My thoughts are with you today. I send you my warmest wishes and I express to you my deepest gratitude.

My husband's last thoughts were of gratitude and love for his people. I humbly add my own feelings so that they may reach you wherever you maybe. I wish to thank you not only for the excellent performance of duties, but also what you meant to my husband and myself.

Greek women and men such as you, strengthen our faith in our people. You managed to achieve this task with unparalleled dedication, great concern, great physical and mental stamina as well as deep understanding for our people's problems.

I beg you to remember always that any achievement does not depend on any one person's inspiration. It is the natural result of mental harmony and voluntary sacrifice.

"Their Majesties' Welfare Fund" is your particular creation and your particular success, and it will remain your creation and your success.

Under the protection of my beloved children, King Constantine and Queen Anna-Maria and as a small part of it, TM Welfare are proceeding towards a new creative future. I say new creative future, because love is flourishing once more in the heart of our nation.

Love between the King and Queen and between themselves and their people, and between all of us, through which we respond to God's love on earth is also inspired by those who pass away, but whose memory lie like a fountain of light in our hearts.

I want to thank you all for the happiness which all of you gave to my beloved King Paul and to me. I know that you will give the same happiness to my beloved children the King and Queen. Whatever you will offer will enlighten the love and devoted co-operation which you offered to us.

[Signed]
Queen Frederica

In one of her interviews with Hourmouzios, taped in Corfu in 1965, Frederica remarked on the Fund and its importance:

"In reality this work, my husband's and mine is the only positive, constructive nationalist effort that has succeeded. After all we didn't do it for town pleasure, it was very tiring and was accomplished at the expense of our family life and health. This is proven by the fact that since I stepped out of it, many poor people have continued to clamour for my help because it has been my personal endeavour. But now Anna-Maria and Tino (the King) are in charge of it and they will take personal control.

Anna-Maria will gather her own group of lady volunteers. The old volunteers say that I must not let them down. I called Alexandra Melas and asked her to tell them that as long as I was the wife of the King it was my mission, my job, regardless of the criticism. Now the criticism I would get would really harm the work. Also, I no longer have the energy to carry on so I have to get out of it...."

Hourmouzios then asked her how she saw her current role as Queen Mother:

"What role? I am quite pleased to be without a role. I have played one long enough in my life: I always had other interests, particularly in science. I have studied nuclear physics on my own, and that takes some time. So my interest has been there. I never wanted power or glory."

ΩΣΟΛΩΝ ΣΟΛΩΝ, ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΑΕΙ
ΠΑΙΔΕΣ ΕΣΤΕ, ΓΕΡΩΝ ΔΕ ΕΛΛΗΝ
ΟΥΚ ΕΣΤΙΝ ... ΩΣΤΕ ΠΑΛΙΝ ΕΞ
ΑΡΧΗΣ ΟΙΟΝ ΝΕΟΙ...

ΠΛΑΤΩΝ (ΤΙΜΑΙΟΣ)
ΕΛΕΧΦΗΣΑΝ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΥΣ ΙΕΡΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ
ΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΣΑΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΟΥ ΣΤΟΝ ΝΟΜ0ΦΕΤΗ
ΣΟΛΩΝΑ (638–558 Π.Χ)

"O, Solon, O, Solon,

You Hellenes are never
Anything but children..
There is not an old
Man among you....
So you must begin
Again like young men."

THE ABOVE PROPHECY HAS BEEN SAID
TO SOLON (638-558 BC) BY THE CLERGY OF THE
CITY SAIS IN EGYPT.

This was said by the High Priests of the Egyptian shrines to Solon (638-558 BC. Legislator)

We were awakened at 3 o'clock on the morning of Friday 21st April 1967 by the ringing of the telephone. The call came from my husband's office telling him that a group of Army officers had broken in, and the City was full of tanks. It appeared that a coup d'état had taken place during the night, but by whom? I hurriedly got out of bed and switched on the radio to see if we could learn a little more about what was happening. The first thing we heard was a succession of Military Marches which were eventually interrupted by the announcer telling us the King had agreed to sign a Decree abolishing certain key articles of the Constitution. My husband was outraged, knowing that the King would never do this, as it was directly contrary to his Oath of Office. At once he dialed Tatoi, but the phone was dead. We tried our private line to the King and Frederica, but without joy. They too were out of order. We tried in vain for an hour to raise somebody who could tell us what was really happening, but it was to no avail. A strange suspicion began to dawn, in fact I had remarked on its oddity when I returned only ten days previously from a visit to Kavalla.

I had occasion to visit the Paedopolis in the town after which I paid my usual



King Constantine and his wife Queen Anne-Marie in Athens.

courtesy call on General Napoleon Paleologopoulos, the Officer commanding the region, and his author wife Ada. I had grown friendly with the couple due to my frequent visits to the area. The place had recently played host to a NATO exercise, but I was surprised to see certain troops still in position. So I asked the General the reason for this. He avoided a direct reply hurriedly changing the subject by asking me how things were in Athens. I told him that the politicians were up to their usual tricks, bickering amongst themselves. We were growing rather tired of this constant friction. Many felt it was time they all calmed down and got on with the job of governing Greece instead of always fighting amongst themselves. He then posed a peculiar question:

"Do you think a dictatorship will solve the problem?" This took me aback, but I thought nothing of it at the time. But when I came to leave he bade me farewell, and said that he would see me in Athens in ten days time.

Ten days later his meaning was beginning to clarify for me. I know I had discussed the conversation with my husband, but we had not really attached much importance to what the General had said. How wrong we were!

We had tried all night to make contact with Tatoi and the Psychiko home of the Queen-Mother, who had vacated the Royal Estate and returned to her old home. As Frederica's house was just around the corner from ours, I decided to walk over there to see what was really happening. I was surprised when I opened the front door to meet two uniformed policemen standing on the doorstep. Very politely they wished me good morning, inquiring if they could be of any assistance. I told them that I had run out of cigarettes and wanted to go the kiosk in the Square to buy some more. They told me that the kiosk was closed, but as I insisted they let me pass. There were a lot of people in the Square, but the police were perfectly correct about the kiosk, it was indeed shut. However, that was not my true destination so I walked on to the Queen Mother's home. As I half suspected it was surrounded by a cordon of soldiers. On approaching the officer in charge stepped forward and asked me where I was going.

I explained to the Officer that I worked in the house, and I needed to enter in order to begin. The man waved me away, curtly telling me to take a week off. On my way back to our villa I asked people in the street what was happening, but nobody seemed to know. Defeated, I returned to my own doorstep, where the two policemen stood patiently. They looked relieved to see me return, remarking that they were right after all about the kiosk being closed. I agreed and then pumped them for information. They did not know anything, either. Merely that they had been given orders to stand guard on our house.

It was my husband's turn now. He walked up to the guard outside Frederica's telling them who he was. He was allowed to pass through the cordon to see her. It

appeared that the Queen Mother was under house arrest. She was desperately worried as she was unable to contact her son the King. She didn't know if he was alive or dead. The Queen was outraged at her detention. She stormed into the house to find the documents showing the honorary ranks bestowed on her during the war, claiming to outrank all her captors, she demanded to know who had given the order to have her detained in this fashion. As King Constantine was the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, she said it seemed unlikely he had given the order. She pleaded with them to let her contact her son, but they were adamant in their refusal. My husband came back, at last we had an inkling of what was occurring in Greece. Many friends tried to come and see us, but were deterred by the guards at the gate. Finally, a niece managed to break through, telling the policeman outside that her granny was dead, and it was imperative that she see the family. She, too was in the dark about the events unfolding around us. Meanwhile the radio bulletin repeated that the King had abolished two articles of the Constitution.

That afternoon a car drew up outside Frederica's house. Terrified, she stepped into it not knowing whether it was to conduct her to a place of execution. Instead it drove her to King Constantine and Queen Anna-Maria at Tatoi. The King, too was under house-arrest, and the signature on the Decree abolishing the two articles of the Constitution a forgery.

He was later taken to Army Headquarters, where pressure was brought on him to authenticate his signature on the Constitutional changes. This he steadfastly refused to do. Further inducement was made to abolish the Constitution altogether, but again the King refused.

The Revolution was staged by three Army Colonels. They were Papadopoulos, Makarezos and Pattakos. Many remembered the calm days of Metaxas, and felt that the Dictators would bring a time of peace and prosperity to the Country. The politicians had been irresponsible, having conducted the affairs of state badly. This was a time of mixed feelings, with two schools of thought predominating. One school supporting the regime and the other afraid of this usurpation of power.

I admit, I was rather curious, and asked my husband if we could invite the Colonels to our house so we could have a close look at them. I also invited Sir Michael Stewart, the British Ambassador, Comte de Selys-Longehamp, the Belgian Ambassador along with his Dutch counterpart. Only two of the Colonels showed up, Makarezos and Pattakos, Papadoupolos did not arrive. After the Dictators had left I asked the Ambassadors their opinion of our new rulers:

"Dreamers", was the general consensus. "Are they going to be the new Greek Napoleons?" My sole thought was:

"God Save this Country!"

I often wondered why the world did not leave us alone. As it so happened we never met Colonels again, but we were nervous, and speculated over what the outcome to all of this may be. I know that the lessons from history made it apparent that Dictatorships usually ended badly. Still life in Greece continued, much as it had always done. I was fed up with politics.

It was then that my daughter Marie-Hélène got engaged. We liked her fiancé very much, so by way of celebration we gave a dinner party. Frederica was there, along with King Constantine and Queen Anna-Maria. Prince Juan Carlos and Princess Sofia with Princess Irene were also guests that evening. The Royal family were not only our personal but also friends' of the groom's family. The King was asked to be best man. He accepted gladly.

We laughed a little when Papadoupolos made speeches, he spoke to the Country as if he were an Army officer addressing his troops before a battle. He always appealed to the people of the Country, commencing with:

"Greece of the Greek Christians."

George Papandreou a renowned wit humorously completed this exhortation by saying:

"And Catholic protestants!"

The Colonels did accomplish some important tasks in the Country. They extended the electricity grid to cover the entire nation and built many hotels to serve the mass of tourists who flocked to Greece as one of Europe's top holiday destinations. But still people were afraid of their power.

The King disliked Government by the Colonels, and constantly begged them to return Greece to democracy. They ignored him keeping him a semi-prisoner in Tatoi. He felt that he had betrayed his oath to his father and to his country. He was angered, too, by the forgery of his signature abolishing the articles of the Constitution. The relationship between Constantine and the Colonels was strained to breaking point.

My daughter was due to marry on December 28th, so I was very busy putting the finishing touches to all arrangements. There were to be several receptions, and invitations had to be sent out. It was on Wednesday December 13th that my husband returned from the office in a very agitated state. He kept repeating:

"The King has left, the King has left!" That was all the sense I could get out of him, thinking that he had gone to visit another country, I inquired:

"Where has he gone?"

"The King raised a revolt against the Dictators!"

At that moment the King's ADC arrived who filled in some more of the details. It seemed that the King and his family had gone to North Greece, where he teamed up with some loyal Army officers in an attempt to overthrow the Government of the Dictators. We were all desperate for news, but the broadcasts remained silent on the matter. I had a feeling of impending doom, a sense that we had been left to the mercy of God.

The next day a military jeep drew up outside the house, and the officer asked for my husband. I was furious at this intrusion and demanded to know why my husband was wanted. Were they Communists these people to come barging in to arrest people in this manner. The man assured me he was not a Communist; he also tried to calm me. He turned to leave, stepping into the jeep, my husband's car drew up. They bundled him into their vehicle and took him away. I was frantic and phoned the former secretary of King George and King Paul for advice. The news had spread and he had already heard of Sophocles's arrest. He too tried to comfort and calm me. His comforting words were suddenly cut off. Stelio Hourmouzios let out a startled cry they had arrived to arrest him, too. My two sons were studying in the United States, but my daughter and future son-in-law rushed around to be with me. I was at my wits end to know what to do. Desperately anxious it occurred to me in the night to phone the Archbishop of Greece the next day and appeal for his help in trying to locate the whereabouts of my husband. He quickly sensed my anxiety, promising to see what he could do. Shortly afterwards the phone rang. A voice at the other end informed me that Mr.Papanicolau had surrendered himself to the Army and was now being held in Goudi. I was aghast. Goudi was the place where Prime Minister Gounaris and his cabinet were shot by the Venizeloists in 1923. Horrified, I asked the Military man if he knew his history. His reply was noncommittal.

My sons got through to me from America and friends phoned from all over Europe inquiring what had taken place. These calls were followed by one from the French Ambassador M. Belain, stating his Embassy was at my disposal should I need to seek asylum. This was followed by a ring from the Belgian Ambassador with a similar offer. I told the Ambassadors that my phone was tapped, but I am sure they knew that already as they simply repeated their kind offers.

I was growing furious. I then put a call through to Colonel Pattakos himself, which was answered by his secretary. On demanding to speak to Pattakos the man replied with a curt snub:

"You mean His Excellency the Minister!"

This incensed me more:



London 1967 – Queen Frederica with her grandchildren Princess Elena and Cristina of Spain and Princess Alexia of Greece.

"When I said Pattakos, I meant Pattakos, and not all this nonsense about his Excellency the Minister."

"I'm a Major in the Hellenic Army!" was the secretary's affronted reply:

"So you're a Major; the best thing for you to do is to close down your Army, seeing that you took it upon yourselves to desecrate all that Greece holds dear. You round-up people who have received the highest honours of the land. You revile the Grand Crosses of Greece. I'll ask you one thing though, are you a Christian? My daughter is due to get married in a few days time, and you arrest my husband. This is outrageous! If my husband is not released by tomorrow afternoon. I shall call the Presidents of Harvard and Columbia Universities and ask them to raise a protest on my husband's behalf. I"ll call my journalist friends in Europe to splash my husband's detention on the front page of every newspaper in the free world! Do you understand?"

"Mrs. Papanicolaou ... that sort of behaviour is a serious offence, and can be punished very severely!"

I decided to ignore the Major so slamming the receiver down, I picked up the other telephone, the one with the unlisted number, and phoned my sons in the United States, telling them to go to the authorities in their respective Universities Columbia and Harvard and request them to raise an outcry on my husband's behalf. Following this I called journalist friends all over Europe and leaked the story of his illegal detention. The job completed, I dialed Pattakos's office once more and told the secretary what I had done. The next day, Sophocles, came home.

I don't know why they released him, perhaps my phone calls across the world did the trick!

It seemed that they had taken him to the Commander in Chief of the Army, General Angelis's H.Q. Here he went before an investigating committee, which accused him of betraying his Country by not informing them that the King was about to raise a revolt against the Military Government of Greece. My husband looked around the room. Staring at each of his accusers in turn. Everyone of them wore an Army uniform. Their caps and epaulettes all bore the insignia of the crown.

"Who?" asked Sophocles:

"Has betrayed his Country. All of you wear the uniform of the King, who under the Greek Constitution is the legitimate Commander-in-Chief of the Army. You have overthrown the elected Government of this Country. You have overthrown the King as Head of State, and ignored the orders of your Supreme Commander. You have removed two articles of our inviolate Constitution. You have done this in the name of the King, yet the signature on your document is a criminal forgery. Who, I ask you is the traitor?"

General Angelis hung his head in shame. Nonetheless, he was taken off to Goudi prison where he was dumped in a communal cell. Each man was given a camp bed to sleep on. In the bed next to him was Papaligouras the former Minister of finance in the Kanneloupolis Government which had been in power at the time the junta took over. On the other side the infamous communist leader, Pyromaglou. Whether the divergent political factions in the cell was by accident or design we do not know. If by design the captors were fully conversant with prison psychology.

"I hear that you are an ardent Communist, but I never believed I would ever share a bed next to yours," was Sophocles's remark to Pyromaglou:

"If the Communist Party ever found out that I shared a cell with the likes of you, I would be in deep trouble!" came back the reply. The next arrival was Stelio Hourmouzios, who was able to report that I had enlisted the support of the Archbishop of Grèece to secure my husband's release. There was a terrible irony in the situation. The Army, claiming to be ardent Monarchists had overthrown the King and filled Goudi with Royalist prisoners. Their ostensible grasp for power had been to subdue a Communist threat, and yet the reverse seemed to to be the case.

Sophocles Papanicolau was detained for three days and then freed. On his release he was asked to officially close all the Royal Palaces, taking a full inventory of all the contents, a job that caused him a lot of distress, and was, I believe, the start of all his heart trouble which was to take his life many years later.

The sad story of the Royal counter-coup emerged. The King had gone North to Kavalla, where he gathered a group of loyal officers around him. The first shots were fired; the first blood was shed. The King realised that he was about to plunge Greece into a terrible Civil War which would do irreparable harm to Greece. He felt that he would rather sacrifice his throne than allow such shame to besmirch the history of the Royal House of Greece. Instead he took his family and fled to Rome. Commenting on the events of that fateful December day, the TIMES, reported:

"Thursday December 14th.

The analysis of the tragedy being played out in Greece is put forward by A.M. Rendel, our Diplomatic corespondent. A young King restive at the Junta controlling his country, finally impelled into action by the risk of losing his power as Army C-in-C and the respect of his people.... The King's proclamation said, that he had asked for a Government reshuffle to get rid of extremist elements who would not guarantee any smooth transition to democratic rule. He felt obliged to support the Junta at the time of the April coup in order to avoid bloodshed, but no longer wished to legalise the present situation in view of the second threat of arms directed at the people and himself...."



Mass in the Church of St Gerome for the new King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain in celebration of a return to the Spanish monarchy.

Naturally these events were not ignored by the rest of the world. Questions were asked in the British House of Commons. Harold MacMillan asked amidst Ministerial cheers, Prime Minister Harold Wilson:

"Now that the Greek King as Head of State has both rejected and dismissed the junta as enemies of the Greek democracy and people, will the government consider withdrawing recognition of the fascist junta in Athens, which is acting in savage defiance of every concept and principle of democracy, and has become a menace, a danger and a weakness within the N.A.T.O. alliance."

Eldon Griffiths, Conservative M.P. for Bury St. Edmunds continued in Prime Minister's question time, by asking Mr. Wilson:

"Will the Prime Minister agree that the Greek King has shown considerable courage and pluck, and will he ask those Labour Members who insulted and abused the King some months ago to withdraw those insults? (Opposition cheers.)"

Harold Wilson, answered:

"It is clear that this has been one of the issues very much in the mind of the Government, that the Greek King during all this period was going through a difficult situation having a lot of things forced on him which were almost totally ... unacceptable to him..The House would pay a tribute to his courage in this situation and the determination he expressed - which now seems for the time being to be incapable of achievement -- to get Greece back quickly to constitutional legality and democracy...."

To reiterate the King left Greece because he was determined never to breech his Oath of Kingship, feeling the abolition of certain articles of the Constitution in his name, was a desecration of his sacred duty. He did what he believed to be right.

As far as we were concerned, the King's revolt and ensuing events did not make the Papanicolaou family the favourite citizens of the Colonels' Military Government. Our passports were confiscated. I began to suffer a sort of spiritual claustrophobia. I, too, felt the time to leave Greece had come. I was tired of the underlying tension in the country. It was irritating to be followed wherever we went and an insult to have our telephones tapped.

The Wedding of my daughter Marie-Helene was set for December 28th, but the dramatic events of December meant we had to cancel all the receptions which had been planned save one. The Marriage took place in Athens Cathedral. All the Allied Ambassadors were present, as were our friends from the previous Government. The King who had consented to be best man was absent. Instead his place was taken by Panayotis Pipinelis, my daughter's godfather. A man who accompanied King George to London in the war years, later faithfully serving King Paul. He had now risen to

be the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Dictators' Administration. A post he accepted feeling that in a position of such responsibility he would be more able to persuade Papadoupolos and the other Colonels to return King Constantine as the legal Head of State.

If his influence failed he would resign. As Foreign Minister he had from time to time to make trips abroad. On one of these visits he fell ill and was taken to hospital in Switzerland. Exercising every precaution imaginable he contacted the King in Rome and asked him to come and see him. The King arrived. After Constantine left, Pipinelis received a phone call from Greece. It was Colonel Papadoupolos, who enquired tenderly after his Foreign Minister's health, before imparting his bombshell:

"How was the King's visit?"

"It was very nice to see him again," was all he could think of replying, but the remark brought home to him very sharply that his Prime Minister had so little trust in him that his every move was being carefully monitored, deciding that as soon as his mission of returning the King to Greece was achieved he would resign. Unfortunately this gesture was denied to him. The heart problem that hospitalised him in Switzerland was to kill him shortly after his return home.

A reception in our home for close friends and family followed the wedding. Unfortunately my sons could not attend their only sister's marriage. Friends had advised us of the dangers of bringing them home in view of the current situation in Greece. Such are the vagaries of politics!

A few months later my husband asked for the return of our passports as it was necessary to travel to Rome to see the King. Both sets of documents returned; as Members of the Royal Court we had been entitled to Diplomatic passports as well as ordinary ones. There was one proviso, however, we could only absent ourselves for one week. As we checked in for the flight to Italy I was anxious, feeling that we might be detained at any moment. This did not happen. In Rome we saw the King and Queen Anna-Maria as well as Frederica. The week passed pleasantly enough, and we returned to Greece. On arrival we were required once more to surrender our passports. This greatly offended, Sophocles, who promptly requested a meeting with the Prime Minister, Colonel Papadoupolos. The audience was granted, and so he was ushered into the Colonel's office in the Parliament Building.

"Am I a convict that my passport is taken from me and I remain a virtual prisoner in Athens? What is my Crime? I have done nothing against the law, having merely fulfilled my duty to my King! Papadoupolos was very apologetic, promising once again to return both sets of our passports. They arrived on the following day,



London 1986 – King Constantine and Queen Anne-Marie with Prince Paul, Prince Nicholas, Princess Alexia, Princess Theodora and Prince Philip.

but my husband returned the two diplomatic travel documents, saying that we did not need them any more. Like a game of ping-pong, these came back again, returned by Minister of the Interior, Pattakos. We never used them again.

My daughter had gone with her husband to live in Zurich. Several months later we received a call from the family that she had given birth to a baby daughter. Delighted, we wanted to rush off and see this first grand-child. In order to travel at all in those days one required visas. My husband's secretary went down to the Ministry to secure the necessary permission for exit. He was asked by the authorities why was it that I wanted to leave the country. The visa was duly granted when the reason for my visit to Switzerland was explained.

While waiting for the flight to board, a little man came and sat beside me in the departure lounge. Addressing me by name, he politely inquired how I was:

"Look what these little soldiers are doing to Greece. Papadoupolos was a Colonel in the Tank Regiment. What has he done beside taking his tanks for a walk?" My seat companion was rather taken by my comments, but said very little. He flew with us on the same aircraft to Zurich and later, I learned he was a secret service operative who had been detailed to insure we left.

I was delighted to see my little grandchild. My brothers came over from London to see us all, suggesting that instead of returning home we go to live in London. We took a decision. We would not return to Athens, but instead go to England.

We bought a house in Hampstead, severed our ties with home and settled into a life of peace and quiet. No longer were we followed, no one was interested in eavesdropping on our telephone calls and gone was the atmosphere of tension. It was bliss!

Before leaving Greece Mrs. Laloudas the Vice-President of "Their Majesties' Fund" told me that the leader of the Junta, Papadoupolos had told her that he wanted all the volunteers to resign. I refused point blank, saying that I was not one of his underlings, enforced to take orders. She disagreed saying I was wrong, because if he chose, the Prime Minister could do great harm. I ignored her.

Now living in London, I felt the time had come to go. I wrote to the Committee, submitting my resignation stating that due to the situation in Greece, I had decided to leave and establish my home in London. As I could no longer actively contribute to the "TM Fund", I felt I had no course left to me but to ask them to release me from my duties.

On June 2nd, 1970, the following letter arrived from Rome:

"Dear Mrs. Papanicolaou,

The King and I wish to express to you our deep gratitude for the loyal services which for so many years you offered with such self-abnegation to "Their Majesties' Fund."

We know how with your inspired and unceasing concern, you have contributed to the success of the whole work, which will remain as an example of devotion and love of the Greek woman towards our country.

Anna-Maria R."

On the 29th of June the Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of St. Paul and St. Peter. This was King Paul's name day, and the date Queen Frederica selected to write to the Ladies of "TM Fund" to thank us for our services and bid us farewell from her exile in Rome. As she wrote the letter, I feel certain her mind returned to the past, as this was a big day in the Royal calendar. A day when we all prayed for the long life and health of the King. A day of exchanging presents. A day when a liturgy was held in Athens Cathedral, and the Royal couple would drive through the streets of their capital to the cheers of their people. A day when the Government, the Army and the Diplomatic Corps flocked to the Palace to pay their respects to the King.

" 29th June 1970

Dear Alexandra

My Dear Friends,

This letter is addressed to you and all the Ladies of "TM Welfare". We have shared so much in the last few years that I wish all of you to know how much I feel for you in your present sorrow and disappointment. Our creation has now changed level. Let us all console ourselves with the thought that one day all we have achieved will be recognised when modern Greek history is written objectively.

We ourselves now have a new lesson to learn. This lesson is how to abandon this achievement which we loved, we created and through which we helped so many thousands of people.

We did not serve an organisation, we served people, specially the young, who owe you all their education, their spiritual equilibrium, their physical health, their life's philosophy and above all their Greek heritage. At the end of it all the important thing is the saving of lives and not the organisation. Would you not feel happy if you remembered saving the life of one drowning man and multiplying this feeling a

thousand times, since you protected with your affection the existence of so many lives, then we will feel the absolute serenity.

I know that our endeavours, were blessed. They were inspired by almighty power. We served the sacred breath of our fellow men, with all that is holy in our souls. Now let us return to God this inspiration that He first gave to us. The inspiration was His.

It belongs to Him and we must never make the mistake of containing with the sorrow, the memory of a task achieved with joy.

My husband was always saying to me: "Memories exist to help us, not to restrain us."

My dear friends your place belongs to the history of modern Greece. What you achieved was unique.

You took my husband's and my thoughts and expectations and turned them into a living reality for our people. You all, and all of those who worked silently and without selfishness, proved that our faith in our people is fully justified.

Your work will live for the generations to come, as far as virtue will live in the souls of all Hellenes, a virtue that we owe to you my dear Alexandra, and all my beloved Ladies. My friends for life.

[Signed]
Frederica R.
Rome
29th June 1970 "

It was so nice to be living in England. My brother was nearby in Hampstead, my cousins lived close by and we were surrounded by British and Greek friends. My husband thoroughly enjoyed hunting and shooting parties in the country houses of our British friends. The King then decided to abandon his exile in Rome and came to live in London. Before his arrival I looked around for a suitable house for them. They arrived bought a house near us and settled down to life in England. I was so happy to be free from political turmoil and was delighted to be with my children and grandchildren. Frederica arrived a little later as she had been in Madras. Then she too was in London. I had not seen her for two years. We met for lunch at Claridge's Hotel.

The Queen chatting away to my husband as I talked to Aristotle Onassis, who was also present. During a lull in our conversation I overheard Frederica telling my husband:

"Tell her not to look so happy, she is out of her country. The best thing she could do is return to Greece! I butted in saying:

"Oh, no Maam! Not that! Not just now!"

"It is your duty to be there."

"My duty is over. Let the new generation fulfill theirs. I have had enough." The Queen was furious with my answer; there was a coolness between us for the rest of the meal. Our decision had been made. I was not a General and neither was I a President, all I wanted was a little peace and quiet, distant from the political vicissitudes of Greece. After all it was unlikely the junta would rule the country forever. Shortly afterwards Frederica returned to India, on our next meeting the subject was never mentioned.

Between 1969 and 1974 Frederica decided to exile herself in India. The reason for this was influenced by gossip, criticising the Queen Mother of being a malign influence on her son. This rumoured rift was rife in Greece and certainly percolated as far afield as London.

The dictators, too, were delighted to jump on the same band-wagon. The return of the King did not suit their purpose. They had dismissed most Royalists from the army and from some positions of authority after the Palace revolt. Far better the colonels live in the Palaces, and the King remain in exile in London, was their attitude.

In order to escape the criticism, Frederica decided to take herself away from her son, but go where?

When Constantine and his family moved from Rome to London, she decided to go off to India. The gossips were still not satisfied saying that she had renounced Christianity to become a Hindu and she was about to marry a guru.

On one of her trips to visit her family in London, I asked why she had taken the decision to go to India:

"I had to go away from my son to please some politicians, who accused me of being a bad influence.

If I remained here in London they would accuse me of influencing my son. If I went elsewhere they would accuse me of something else. I could do no right for doing wrong. In the midst of all of this I received a letter from the old Indian professor, the one my husband used to call the wise man. Dr. Mahadevan invited me to India so that I could follow lectures in Indian philosophy at the University. I



King Juan Carlos of Spain with Queen Sofia, Princess Elena, Prince Felipe and Princess Cristina.

thought that was a good idea, as it would give me spiritual peace and provide a solution to my problems. My daughter Irene and my cousin Tany (Sophia, Prince Philip's sister) came with me, Luki Ralli a member of the Industrialist family offered me a house and there I stayed although making frequent visits to Europe, to see Tino and family in London and Sofia in Spain."

She found Indian Philosophy, which has many points in common with mathematics was to her the big truth.

The German physicist and Nobel Prize Winner, Professor Heisenberg became a firm friend. They had first met when he attended the "Athens Symposium" in 1964. Frederica was glad to find someone with whom to share her ideas. A springboard where ideas could be tossed from one to another; a testing ground for their validity. She had started writing her book: "A Measure of Understanding", whilst on one of her London visits read me this part:

"It was kind of you to lend me your lecture. I read it with the greatest interest. On page 60 you say ... " the best description of this collision (particle) phenomena is to say that particles have been split, but to speak of the creation of particles out of energy according to the law of relativity is to say that all particles are made of the same fundamental substance which we may call Energy or matter. The fundamental substance Energy becomes Matter by assuming the form of an elementary particle."

"It seems to me that since the "unseen world" is made up of particles, and particles have only assumed the form of an "unseen substance" to which we have given the name energy, it seems to me because of this, that the right understanding of myself and the world around me is the right identification. Do I identify myself with the "seen form" or the "unseen substance", which is mutual to all and everything? The same applies to the material world in general. Identification with the "seen" brings multiplicity and separation. Identification with the "unseen substance" brings "non-duality," harmony, "THE ONE".

After the death of General Franco, everyone expected trouble and internal discord to erupt in Spain. Would the Army take over and appoint a new dictator to replace Franco? I suppose we were not the only ones to think they would. But the Spaniards proved to have more political foresight than the Greeks. Don Juan Carlos was proclaimed King and the country began to shift towards democracy without civil strife.

Frederica was very proud of her son-in-law and daughter. She once said:

"They work so well together. Juanito managed after the long dictatorship to return the country to democracy in the smoothest way.

His sense of duty and his devotion to God and Spain will give him the strength to be an excellent King. I am really very proud of him!"

I asked her impression of Sofia as Queen, to which she replied: "No need to speak of her character to you, you know quite well she had Palo's adorable personality, nice, kind with enormous human understanding. You should see the way they treat me when I am in Spain! They treat me like a Queen! I am really happy when I am with them. And the children! Have you ever seen an Angel? That's Felippe! I am proud of them. God bless them all and let God help them accomplish their duty. Tino and Anna-Maria and their marvelous children are just as wonderful with me. What a pity they are not in Greece. Irene is doing so much good work for charity. This "World Harmony" scheme is an enormous undertaking, trying to help all these poor countries. God has blessed me with wonderful children and grand-children, I am so lucky!"

After the embarrassing mix-up which culminated in the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, the Military Junta saw fit to stand aside and return Greece to civilian Government. Constantine Karamanlis was called to return from his self styled exile in Paris in order to return Constitutional rule. Princess Irene came to our house and told my husband that the King needed to see him. The King and Queen were busily packing in preparation for their return home. Karamanlis phoned them from Paris, asking that they delay their departure as he wanted to be in place to suitably welcome them. They were to await his phone call which would be the summons to return to Athens. The phone never rang. Karamanlis never telephoned. Instead he returned to Athens and mounted a plebiscite which allowed the Greek people to decide the question. The issue to be voted upon was whether Greece remain a Constitutional Monarchy or become instead a Presidential Democracy. The date set for the referendum was the 8th of December 1974. A campaign of pure demagoguery began. King Constantine was accused of being pro-Dictator, which was blatantly untrue in light of the events that had passed. He had relinquished his throne, rather than serve under them. We returned to Greece in early December to cast our votes.

The result was announced, the King had received only 36% of the ballot. The people had voted in favour of a Presidential Democracy. The King was not to return!

In his speech declaring the result of the vote, the Prime Minister stated:

"The Plebiscite has settled the issue of the Monarchy which has divided the Nation for decades ... Monarchy is a cancer...."

It seems the Greek leader was suffering from amnesia. He had forgotten two things. Firstly his native village of Kioupioi had been under Turkish rule at the time of his birth. It was liberated thanks to King Constantine I. Secondly he had forgotten his pro-Monarchist speeches of the past.

Another era began, and Greece had a new Constitution. We decided to remain in London.

One day in 1978 Frederica asked me to take her for a drive, during which she told me that President Anwar Sadat had invited her to visit Egypt, but she didn't quite know what to do. I suggested she speak to her son and son-in-law about the invitation and assuming they agreed she should go.

She spoke to King Constantine who gave the visit his blessing and then flew off to Spain to confer with King Juan Carlos. He too was in full agreement. She was joined in Madrid by Sonia Katris and together they journeyed to Cairo, where President Sadat accorded her full State Honours as if she were a reigning Queen; a full programme of official visits was planned for her. Her main interest however, was to get to know Sadat. Despite their busy schedules he was able to set aside two hours to speak to her. She found him to be a man of attractive personality with a very strong belief in God he felt God had given him his position and it was his duty to help his people as best he could. He read the Koran frequently and tried as far as possible to live his life as a good Moslem. He told her that he was not at all afraid of death or assassination. If it were God's will, then it was up to God to decide his fate. Jokingly he told her of his terrorist past:

"Just imagine Your Majesty, in the past I planted bombs to kill the British!"

Frederica was sorry that Palo was not alive to meet Sadat. He would have enjoyed speaking to him.

The Egyptian leader impressed her as someone of high moral principle. I remember her telling me that if she ever went to Egypt again she would like to go with her children so that they could meet him. I said I would like to go as well. She promised that if ever she went I would be included in the Royal Party. Unfortunately the visit never took place. Anwar Sadat made peace with Israel, received the Nobel Peace Prize and was assassinated. The world lost another fine leader!

Queen Frederica, her Indian experience behind her, now divided her time between London and Madrid. She would often ask me to keep her company on visits to Art Galleries and Exhibitions. As a matter of fact I had an Exhibition of my own work at the Hamilton Gallery off Grosvenor Square. King Constantine kindly consented to open the showing, but his mother eschewed the official inauguration, preferring to come quietly and discretely as a member of the general public on the following day.

She was very interested in my "Space Paintings", being curious to understand the concept behind them. The depiction of metaphysics was a curious phenomenon for her. Frederica surrounded herself with interesting people from both the arts and sciences. Often she would bring conductors, musicians and artists to my house.

Ian Redpath, Vice-President of the Federation of Astronomical Sciences and John Man who produced "The Encyclopaedia of Space Travel and Astronomy" and a well known author on the subject of outer space were anxious to come and show a video of pictures taken by the latest NASA probe. On hearing of their visit Frederica, expressed great interest and asked if she and her grandchildren could be present. Of course they were more than welcome, so were King Constantine and Queen Anna- Maria if they wanted to come. After the film Redpath and Man explained the finer points of the video. We all learned a lot. When they left the Queen-Mother commented that now she could understand my pictures a lot more easily, asking:

"Does your painting Just happen or are you guided by an inner vision?"

> "The Hero of the Tale
> Which I beg! the Muse
> To help me tell!"
> Homer: "Odysseus

ΑΝΛΡΑ ΜΟΙ ΕΝΕΠΕΝ ΜΟΥΣΑ....
ΟΜΗΡΟΣ ΟΔΥΣΣΕΙΑ

Certainly one had to wait for the muse; it was like entering some sort of hypnotic trance from which the vision came and then the picture followed.

At this time she was having trouble with her eyes. I knew she was suffering from heart trouble, but the eye business was a new development. The muscles in her eye lids had grown slack which gave her eyes a drooping look and interfered substantially with her vision. It didn't sound particularly serious to me, feeling that a visit to a Doctor would easily solve the problem. Frederica asked if I knew the name of someone who could perform the minor operation required, but she could not make up her mind on whether to have the surgery done in London, or in Madrid. She was sure if she went to hospital in Britain the Press would get wind of the story, probably saying she was having a face lift or something equally ludicrous:

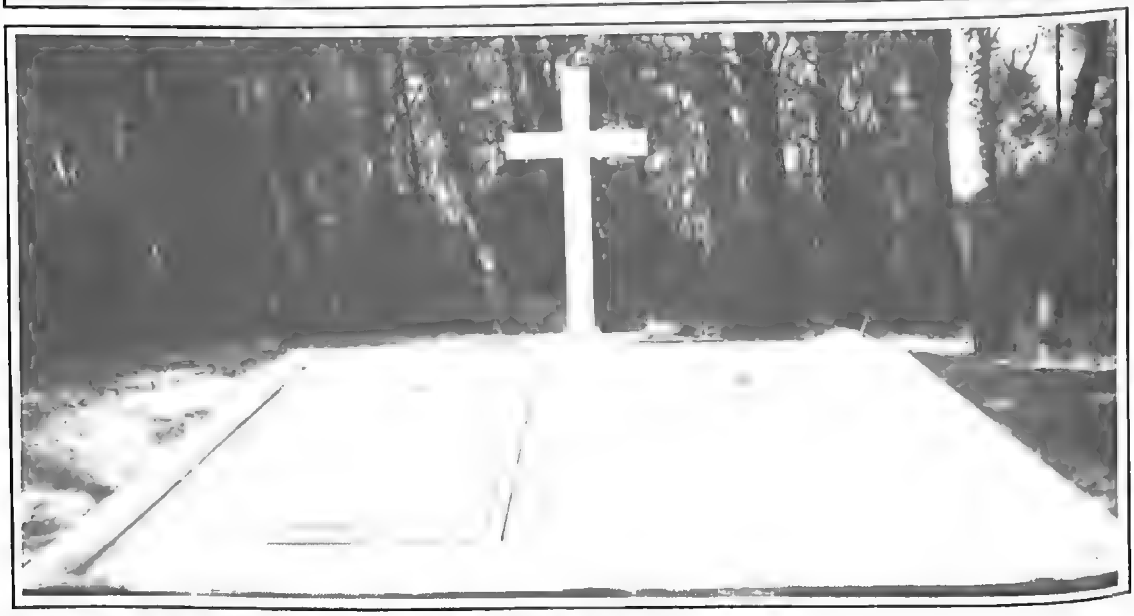
"Why do they always hound me?"

I reminded her of a conversation that we had once had with my sister-in-law, Lena Maris, when the Queen had asked the same question. Lena had told her :

"They never bother me, because I have done nothing particular with my life, but you have achieved fame and position, people are always jealous of that!"

Anyway I told her not to worry too much, but that I would speak to a friend of mine, Dr. Jane Somerville and see what she could suggest about he eyes. Jane







Top: Grave of King George II at Tatoi Palace, Greece.

Above: Graves of King Paul and Queen Frederica.

Left: Memorial Service for King Paul and Queen Frederica, attended by King Juan Carlos of Spain, Lilika Papanicolaou (1st from left), Sophocles Papanicolaou, The Spanish Ambassador, etc.

Somerville is a very able heart specialist, and I felt sure she would be able to make suitable arrangements in London. This she did. In order to avoid publicity she arranged for Frederica to enter the London Clinic under my name, knowing that this ploy would not attract attention. The Dr. was a little worried because of the Queen's heart condition, advising caution with the anaesthetic. However, as she was going to be present in the London Clinic she did not foresee any difficulties.

Frederica was uncomfortable with the deception announcing that she would go to Spain, where she knew she could enter a hospital with the minimum of fuss and attention. Moreover she did not want her children to know what she was about to do, asking me to keep her secret for her. I agreed; at the time I was working on a series of paintings showing the interaction of the galaxies, which the Queen had admired in the inception stages. She came to see me shortly before catching her plane to Madrid, saying that she would be away for a week and looked forward to seeing the painting completed.

It was a Saturday evening, the 7th of February to be completely precise. My husband and myself were invited to dinner at the home of some British friends. The King had come over for a long meeting with Sophocles, at eight o'clock they were still deep in discussion in the study, when I entered to remind my husband of our dinner invitation. The King was most apologetic for delaying us, saying that he would have left earlier had he known.

We got back home just after midnight. As soon as I stepped through the front door the telephone was ringing. It was a very agitated Princess Catherine, to say that the radio news had just announced the death of Queen Frederica in a Madrid hospital. I could not believe my ears! It just could not be true! My husband was sure there was some mistake. The phone never stopped ringing that night, as people called from Greece and all over Europe asking for confirmation. At that point we could neither confirm nor deny the story. The next ring was from Spain. It was King Constantine. Again I was aghast, as he had been sitting in our Hampstead House only a few short hours before:

"Mama died at 9 o'clock this evening!"

So it was true! He had been telephoned shortly after nine when the news was broken to him. He rushed to Heathrow, managing to catch the last flight to Madrid. We could now confirm the rumour.

I was very concerned to know the whereabouts of the Royal Standard which would have to be draped over her coffin, but the King lay my worries at rest. He knew where it was.

In keeping with royal tradition it was her right to be buried next to her husband at Tatoi.

King Constantine requested permission from the Greek Government for the burial to take place in Tatoi. At first there were a series of objections on the part of the President, who relented at the last moment, but only if the King agreed to certain conditions. The funeral was set to commence at 9am on the 12th of February.

A couple of days earlier my husband and I flew to Athens accompanied by our daughter. Many of the Queen's friends arrived from London and other places. Chamberlain Papagos said that his arrangements were continually being hampered by difficulties raised by the President and Prime Minister, Mr. Rallis. They declared that the mourners and the body be flown directly to the Military Airfield at Tatoi. The King and the coffin were not to arrive at Athens International Airport, which would have meant a drive through the city Centre. There was to be no stopping between the Airfield and Tatoi, so the Royal party was denied the opportunity of even washing their hands. The King , his wife and children were required to leave Greece immediately after the funeral.

Prime Minister Rallis went to the airport to greet, the official guests as they arrived, among them was Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, Prince Philip and his sisters, the ex-King and Queen of Rumania, Prince Albert of Belgium (now King), the Prince of Liechtenstein and the Duke and Duchess of Barcelona (parents of the King of Spain), with members of the Royal House of Denmark. There were many relatives of the family. Foreign governments sent ambassadors. The Lady volunteers of "Their Majesties' Welfare Fund" were present and some Ministers of the Government disobeyed instructions and attended. The Greek Government itself,was not officially represented.

The police lined the road to Tatoi. There were a series of road-blocks to prevent, all but official invitation holders from attending. Some friends from London, who had flown to Athens specially for the funeral were not allowed to enter the grounds of Tatoi.

When I arrived in the Royal Chapel, I blushed with shame. It was a cold February day. The chapel was unheated, and there were no chairs so that people could sit. In fact too small to hold us all, we huddled outside

The President had ordered that the house itself remain closed to the visitors, and the keeper's house was similarly off limits. There were no facilities available for us to even powder our noses. Certainly no refreshments were provided, not even a glass of water! This caused much discomfort for some of the older members of the congregation. Xenia (Goddess of Hospitality) was certainly absent from that sad funeral. The Greeks pride themselves on looking after their guests. No Greek would tolerate the thoughtlessness we experienced that day. It made me wonder if the President himself was Greek to allow such a breach of hospitality.

In fact I apologised to Queen Juliana for the lack of facilities, and smiling she pushed aside my comments:

"Don't worry. That's politics for you!"

We waited and waited for the coffin and immediate family mourners to arrive. It had arrived, but crowds of mourners from the city refused to let the Queen's body be transported to its final resting place by hearse. Instead they insisted on carrying the heavy casket on their shoulders all the way to Tatoi. The police tried to stop the procession and scuffles broke out. Others, turned back on the main road, skirted the airfield and approached the Royal residence by a side road. Cars had to be abandoned far away to avoid police interference. They broke through the cordons and flooded into the grounds of the estate. People climbed trees for a view of the grave side. There were many shouts of "Long live your memory Queen of Gramos, Vitsi and Konitsa!"

The Royal cortege finally reached Tatoi at 3 o'clock that afternoon. The King, Queen Anna-Maria and their children arrived in company of the King's sister Queen Sofia and her husband, the King of Spain, along with Queen Frederica's youngest daughter, Princess Irene.

We all crammed into the small chapel for the Mass conducted by the Archbishop of Greece. The choir that sang the "Te Deum" was the Palace Choir, first organised by King Paul and Queen Frederica.

Queen Frederica was buried beside her husband, and close to the Kings and Queens who had helped shape the modern history of Greece.

As her coffin was lowered into the earth. A cry, from the crowds who had fought their way to Tatoi in spite of all obstacles, went up:

"Long live your memory Mother of the orphans!"

The words of Palamas, so apt floated into my mind.

Regina, sleepless standing high
On your throne.
Watchful of the ones who sob
And suffer.
Approaching with caresses
The poverty of the orphans,
New flowers thirsting for
Heavenly refreshment.
Honourable Regina, full of goodness
Let God give you his blessing!.
Kostis Palamas

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑ
Βασιλισσα που ακοιμητη
στεκειζ φηλα στον θρονο
για ναγναντευζ πιο καλα
ποιοζ κλαιει ποιοζ εχει πονο
και να σημωνηζ χαιδευτα στη
φτωχεια στην ορφανια χλωμα
χορταρια που διφουν δροσουλαπτα
Ουρανια ατιμητη Βασιλισσα
γεματη καλωσυν να σε φυλαη ο
θεοζ και χρονια να σου δινη

Flowers were thrown into the grave, covering the coffin before the first spadefuls of earth covered it.

A young man who had come with those from Athens to pay his last respects mentioned to Princess Katherine, looking about him, tired from the many obstacles thrown in his way by officialdom, in an attempt by the Greek Government to prevent the people of the country from attending the funeral of Queen Frederica, said:

"Up to now I have been an anti-Royalist, now I am an ardent Royalist!"

King Constantine was able to walk around his old home in the company of his wife and children, before he was driven to the Tatoi airfield, and the aeroplane that was to remove him from Greece once more.

Queen Frederica's grave is simple and without pretension. Hers is one of the graves of a contemporary hero of Greece. She is buried as she would have wished, beside the body of her beloved husband. The twin white Pentelikon marble headstones, proclaim in the words of St. John their beliefs, declaring for all to see their mission as two of God's servants:

For Paul.

I have glorified thee
I have finished the work which,
Thou gavest me to do.
And now I am no more
in the world,
But these are in the world,
And I come to Thee,
Holy Father,
Keep through thine
Own name
Those whom Thou hast
Given me,
That may be One
As we are.

Gospel of St. John

For Frederica

I pray for them. I pray
Not for the world, but
For them, which Thou
Hast given me, for they
Are Thine...and I come
to Thee....
Sanctify, them through
Thy Truth: Thy word is truth,
That they all may be
One;
As Thou Father, art in
Me, and I in Thee,
That they also may be
One in us.....

St. John Chapter 17.

NOTES

1. Stelios Hourmouzios, "No Ordinary Crown", page 346.
2. The Times: December 15th 1967.

EPISTOLARY DOCUMENTATION

I: CORRESPONDENCE
between
QUEEN FREDERICA OF THE HELLENES
and
GENERAL MARSHALL - SECRETARY OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	10 February, 1948
From Marshall S. Carter to K. L. Rankin	10 February, 1948
From K. L. Rankin to Marshall S. Carter	17 February, 1948
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	5 April, 1948
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	12 July, 1948
From Marshall S. Carter to K. L. Rankin	12 July, 1948
From K. L. Rankin to Marshall S. Carter	19 July, 1948
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	12 August 1948
From K. L. Rankin to Marshall S. Carter	16 August, 1948
From Marshall S. Carter to K. L. Rankin	24 August, 1948
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	Rhodes 15.10.48
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	(1948 Nov.)
From Marshall S. Carter to K. L. Rankin	3 November, 1948

From K. L. Rankin to Marshall S. Carter	10 November, 1948
From Mrs. Marshall to their Majesties	12 December, 1948
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	29 January, 1949
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	12 March, 1949
From Secretary Ascheson to General George C. Marshall	6 March, 1950
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	10 July, 1950
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	20 July, 1950
From John Phrantzes to General George C. Marshall	August 1950
From D. Brady to General George C. Marshall	August 1950
From Headquarters 2nd Army	9 November, 1950
From J. Bieder to Kate Brady	(1950)
From America National Red Cross	(1950?)
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	21 December, 1950
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	13 March, 1950
From American Embassy to P. Leloudas	8 June, 1951
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	15 April, 1951
From Dean Acheson to General George C. Marshall	2 July, 1951
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	16 July, 1951
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	1 December, 1951
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	1 February, 1951
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	7 May, 1952
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	25 July, 1952
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	26 July, 1952
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	1 August, 1952
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	27 May, 1953
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	9 June, 1953
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	19 December, 1953
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	19 August,1954
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	16 September, 1954
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	18 January, 1955
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	14 February, 1955
From Queen Frederica tao General George C. Marshall	14 March, 1955
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	13 April, 1955
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	13 October, 1955
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	16 December, 1955
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	29 February, 1956
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	8 March, 1956
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	20 March 1956
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	29 March, 1956
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	19 December, 1956
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	10 May, 1957
Cable from Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	16 May, 1957
From Queen Frederica to George C. Marshall	30 June, 1957
From C. J. George to Queen Frederica	24 September, 1957

From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	28 October, 1957
The Cracker Barrel	29 November, 1957
Note General George C. Marshall	2 December, 1957
From C. J. George to Queen Frederica	9 December, 1957
From Mary Carolou to C. G. George	16 December, 1957
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	11 January, 1958
From General George C. Marshall to Queen Frederica	9 October, 1958
From M. L. Spilman to Queen Frederica	26 February, 1959
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	February 1959
From Queen Frederica to General George C. Marshall	29 May, 1960
From Omar N. Bradly to Queen Frederica	5 January, 1961
Certification of sealed envelope	27 January, 1961
From Queen Frederica to Omar N. Bradly	19 June, 1961
From C.I.A. to Omar N. Bradly	20 July, 1961
From Omar N. Bradly to Queen Frederica	27 July, 1961

DRAFT

February 10, 1948

Your Majesty:

As one result of our conversation at Claridges the evening before your return to Athens I arranged to have Lieutenant General James A. Van Fleet sent to Greece as the senior American military official. This action was taken to give the Greek Government, and particularly the Greek Army, the benefit of the advice of probably the most aggressive and hard driving army corps commander developed by us during the war. His success from the hour of his landing on the Normandy beach as a regimental commander up to the final weeks of fighting east of the Rhine as the commander of some 200,000 men, was phenomenal. And yet with all that he is of a rather moderate retiring type.

I think he can be of great help in the campaign against the guerrilla forces.

I would appreciate your considering this personal note to you as a confidential matter, particularly as I am hopeful, behind the scenes, your personal interest in Van Fleet may be helpful.

G. C. Marshall

February 10, 1948

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I enclose herewith a personal communication from the Secretary of State to Her Majesty Frederika, Queen of the Hellenes. The Secretary desires that you personally deliver this letter directly into the hands of Her Majesty. The Secretary also desires that this matter be handled on a personal and confidential basis directly between you and me, and I would appreciate your confirmation of delivery.

With many thanks,

Faithfully yours,

Marshall S. Carter
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Karl L. Rankin, Esquire,
American Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Athens.

American Embassy,
Athens, Greece,
Feb. 17, 1948

Dear Mr. Carter:

In compliance with your letter of February 10, I personally delivered the accompanying communication from the Secretary into the hands of the Queen last night.

Queen Frederika was deeply appreciative of the Secretary's letter and told me that she would reply directly.

Sincerely yours,

K. L. Rankin
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Marshall S. Carter, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the Secretary,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

The Royal Palace
Athens

April 5, 1948

Dear General Marshall,

I am very sorry that I did not answer your letter earlier. The trip to the Dodecanese and lately an operation of my appendix interfered with my correspondence. I received your letter with great pleasure announcing the arrival of General Van Fleet. He has made an excellent impression not only on my husband and me, but also in Greek and British quarters. He has already given us the impression of being efficient and at the same time very human. These two characteristics are bound to make him a success with our people. It is charming of you to say that as one result of our conversation at Claridges you chose Van Fleet to come to Greece. Your choice we feel has been an excellent one. If you will consider my writing to you also as absolutely private and confidential, and as a continuation of our talk in London, then I would like every now and then to put before you my husband's and my view upon the situation in Greece.

My husband would like you to know that in spite for the fact that Van Fleet seems to be satisfied with the present set up of the Army High Command, he considers it essential to have a C. in C. with full responsibilities. Any other solution will remain in some respects always unsatisfactory. General Papagos, our C. in C. during the Albanian campaign, would be the right person at this critical moment as he combines high integrity of character and great prestige in the army. The C. in C. must not be tied down by Committees and must have full jurisdiction due to a C. in C., and maintain personally the liaison with the foreign missions, taking his decisions following his personal talks with them. The system today is intricate and slow, and my husband is afraid it acts like a brake in a war where initiative and prompt decisions are needed more than anything else. We appreciate deeply the military aid that is now coming in. If we had had it last year already many grave social problems might have been avoided, such as the increase of our refugees from 20,000 to 50,000 this year. The Konitza incident where 800 soldiers held out against 4000 brigands is proof that the spirit of the army is all right and the Greek soldiers given enough arms can fight successfully against the odds. The more arms we have the quicker our trouble will be over. My husband is feeling optimistic about the coming spring offensive. He intends to encourage our troops with his presence wherever it should be needed. God give that we shall not have to face a foreign invasion. Should that happen we shall fight again. My husband feels strongly that talks between our Staff and American and British Staffs might facilitate any future complications. Let us better be ready for all eventualities. Our army under its present organisation is not in a position to face a major war. It is debatable whether aid by our friends will arrive in time to save us from a Blitz action of our neighbours. My husband considers it therefore now already necessary that a study be made between the Staffs for a plan of common action for such an emergency for us not to be caught unaware. We want to be convinced that not only can we rely in our hour of need on our friends, but also that the aid of our friends can reach us in time.

I shall now finish this long letter by expressing to you once more, as I did in London, our gratitude and admiration for the courageous leadership that you are giving to all of us in these troubled times. The signing by the President of the Marshall Plan has filled us all with enthusiasm. May your own people continue to appreciate this leadership, as shown by yourself and Mr. Truman, as much as it is appreciated by us in Europe. May God help us to play our part well, so as to live up to it and make it a success. To know you fills me with confidence. This is also one reason why I have written as openly as I have done, knowing that you will consider all I have said as purely personal and unofficial.

My husband sends you his best regards and hopes to have the chance of meeting you one day.

Hoping that you will visit us one day here in Greece,

With best wishes,

FREDERIKA, R.

July 12, 1948

Dear Mr. Rankin

Enclosed herewith is a personal communication from Secretary Marshall to Her Majesty Frederika, Queen of the Hellenes. The Secretary has asked that you personally deliver the letter directly into the hands of Her Majesty. It is the Secretary's wish that this matter be handled on a personal and confidential basis directly between you and me. After deliver of the letter, I would appreciate hearing from you.

The Secretary appreciated your prompt compliance to his previous request.

Faithfull yours,

Marshall S. Carter
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Karl L Rankin, Esquire,
American Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,
Athens.

Letter from General Marshall

12 July 1948 *The Secretary of State, Washington*

Your Majesty

I have delayed in responding to your gracious and frank reply to my letter of last spring because I first wished to be certain of the action of our Congress regarding appropriations for Greece and a decision to go forward with the European Recovery Plan. Also, I wished to have some indication of the first results of the military effort now in progress. Fortunately Congress granted us the necessary funds for the ensuing fiscal year and confirmed the Recovery Program; and the spring campaign appears to have progressd favourably.

I was concerned over your feeling that the British-American agreement in supporting a policy of restricted authority for the Commander-in-Chief in the field would be detrimental to success. From my long-range point of view I am inclined to your views of the matters, but I have felt it necessary to proceed with much caution because of my confidence in General Van Fleet and especially because of my distance from the scene of action. I trust that the progress of the present campaign has not confirmed His Majesty's and your fears. If so, and you will tell me, I will exert my influence to improve matters.

The reported successes of the Greek Army during the past three weeks and the sudden rupture between the Soviets and Marshal Tito are evidence of an improvement in the situation.

With reference to a continuation of our correspondence, so long as it can be on an 'absolutely private and confidential basis', I will be glad to exchange views with you whenever you feel this will be helpful.

Most confidentially, while I am in Europe for the United Nations Assembly meeting this fall, I hope to get in a brief informal visit to Rome and Athens. Please express to His Majesty my deep appreciation of his message.

With great respect,

Faithfully yours

G. Marshall

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Athens, Greece, July 19, 1948.

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Secretary's personal letter to Queen Frederika was delivered by me into the hands of Her Majesty the day before yesterday.

Her Majesty expressed particular appreciation of the Secretary's thoughtfulness.

Sincerely yours,

K. L. Rankin
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Marshall S. Carter, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the Secretary,
Office of the Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Athens, August 12 . 48

Dear General Marshall,

I was delighted to receive your letter of July 12 and was even more delighted to know that you may be coming to Athens, in the near future.

I think a visit of yours to Greece will do a great deal of good.

I hope you will come and stay with us.

Both my husband and I would be delighted to give you hospitality which we hope you will accept unless for political reasons of your own you consider this unpractical. I hope you will stay some days, so that we could show you a bit of our country, which is really very beautiful.

Talking about the question of the C in C of our army, the position at the moment is the following: Before operations started, my husband pressed for a C in C with full authority, as I wrote to you in my first letter. This did not materialise, owing to lack of support from our Allies and also owing to opposition from the Prime Minister and his Liberal party. General Van Fleet arrived, and is and has been of tremendous help to our war effort. My husband considers him not only a sincere friend, but also as a invaluable advisor. A few days ago the Prime Minister came to see my husband and told him the following: "You were right, and I was wrong. We must have General Papagos as C in C of the Greek Army and I shall see that it is done".

My husband's opinion on this matter is this: He thinks that it is unpracticable and unadvisable to make great changes while operations are in progress. He also thinks there may be a political intrigue against Van Fleet behind the scenes, sponsored by the ultra Liberal group: (This of course is terribly confidential). They would like to have a rift between the Royal House and the American Military Mission. The appointment of General Papagos at this moment is supposed to hurt Van Fleet's feelings and turn him against the King. My husband still feels that Papagos should become C in C, but it must be done in the right way and at the proper moment. He will not tolerate any intrigue about the matter.

Since Van Fleet's arrival fighting has taken a definite turn to the better. His dynamic influence is being felt everywhere, and we are more than grateful for his presence in Greece.

I would now like to point out the more disagreable side of the whole matter that my husband finds rather troublesome to deal with. Owing to the fact that our present Chief of Staff is a very charming person without any personality or driving power, Van Fleet is often forced by circumstances to take over completely. This gives him freedom of Command but leaves the responsability on our Staff. The Staff is dissatisfied with this situation. They consider their own Chief of Staff just as an American ....
The general opinion is, that either the army should be completely taken over by the Americans, who then would have to have freedom of Command with full responsability,

or our Staff is given a leader that knows how to command and carry responsability, and who is helped by such first class advice and support as given by General Van Fleet.

At the moment nobody is quite sure who is responsible to whom, and who is to take orders from Americans or from Greeks. The lack of strong C in C gives ..... to some confusion and small jealousies owing to a great lack of clear-cut responsabilities, so necessary in all army matters.

The other day a crisis arose between both Foreign Military Missions on the one hand and the Greek Authorities on the other, over the General commanding our troops on the mountains. The foreigners wanted him to be removed and the Greeks wanted him to stay. My husband's opinion was not asked. He did not therefore mix up, but felt it was unnecessary to make such a big change just now, specially as the man is one of our last Generals commanding troops in the field since 1 $^1/_2$ years. There was also no .... or set-back that justifies such an action, specially on the eve of Victory. It caused some bad feeling and nearly a Government crisis. Until to-day my husband has not been informed why our foreign friends pressed for the removal of this General.

I think that when you come here it would be a good idea to discuss the whole Military set up. Operations will have reached a decisive stage by then or even have been successfully concluded and plans can be made for re-arranging our army on a new basis. The present set up remains unsatisfactory and is allien to Greek tradition. Although in the field our troops remain successful, in high quarters too many cooks sometimes spoil the soup. Time is wasted by too many discussions with Cabinet Ministers, Generals, Admirals and Foreigners, and matters that ought to be the sole concern and responsability of a C in C. Security are also greatly hampered by the present set up. Too many people are in the know. There is a saying that no secret service can work either in Japan or in Greece, as in the former nobody talks and in the latter everybody talks.

Now let me turn to things in general.

My husband created quite a stir for having given a straight answer to a straight question put to him by Sultzberger of the New York Times on the Cyprus question. In a private interview he told Sultzberger that we Greeks dont understand why Cyprus has not been given back to us yet. The island is completely Greek, and all the inhabitants want is to be incorporated once again with Greece. The English offer the autonomy which the Greeks, except for a few Communists, reject. The result is that the English have only the Communist element on the Island (an unimportant minority) as their official support for this .... idea. My husband also told Sultzberger that in his opinion the strategic position would not be affected but could be greatly improved, as for the exchange of Cyprus, basis could be made available not only on Cyprus, but also in Crete, for our American and English friends. The harbour of Suia in Crete is far bigger than the one in Cyprus. I think that the strategic position of Crete

is .... by our Allies. Ever since the Turkish occupation did the people of the Dodecanese and Cyprus wish to return to Greece. In the Dodecanese this wish has become a reality, in Cyprus it is still a dream. These are only my comments on my husband's interview, which was an absolutely unofficial one. The interview was in no way meant to be embarassing to our English friends (who did not like it very much), but to set an idea going, which one day might be used for a basis of conversations and put into reality.

My husband hopes to keep our present Government going as long as possible, which is not always very easy. As soon as the situation permits, we hope to go in for new elections.

Once again we both send you our best regards and wishes and are looking forward to see you soon in Greece.

(Sgd) FREDERICA R.

American Embassy,
Athens, Greece,
August 16, 1948.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Queen Frederika has requested me to transmit the enclosed letter to Secretary Marshall.

Sincerely yours,

K. L. Rankin
Counselor of Embassy

Marshal S. Carter, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the Secretary,
Department of State,
Washington.

August 24, 1948

Dear Mr Rankin:

Thank you for your letter of August 16 received by diplomatic pouch this date. The enclosure has been delivered to the Secretary.

Faithfully yours,

Marshall S. Carter
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

K. L. Rankin, Esquire,
Counselor of Embassy,
American Embassy,
Athens, Greece.

Rhodes 15.10.48

Dear General Marshall,

This is just a short note to tell you how glad we are to receive you and your wife in Greece. My husband and I being on an official tour that.....

Paris, France
November 3, 1948

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I am once again calling on you to handle this little matter of delivery for the Secretary, and would appreciate it if you would care of it with your usual dispatch. Sorry I missed you on our quick trip to Greece recently.

Faithfully yours,

Marshall S. Carter
Special Assistant to the Secretary

Karl L. Rankin, Esquire,
American Embassy,
Athens.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
Athens, November 10, 1948.

Dear Mr. Carter:

In accordance with your letter of November 3, I delivered the Secretary's letter personally to King Paul today.

The King expressed his appreciation of the Secretary's thoughtfulness.

Sincerely yours,

K. L. Rankin
American Minister

Marshall S. Carter, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the Secretary,
American Embassy,
Paris.

Department of State

17 H	Outgoing Telegram	Unrestricted

Origin: ARA

Info: Control 2894
SS:
NA Dec. 12, 1948

EMBASSY
ATHENS
1800

Please have following message delivered to their Majesties!

QUOTE Your Majesties' gracious message to my husband and the sweet message from the children have touched him deeply. His recovery is progressing satisfactorily. He wishes me to express to you both his great appreciation and thanks for your thoughts of him. (signed)

Katherine Marshall UNQUOTE

Lovett Acting

UNRESTRICTED

Dictated on the telephone by the Secretary of States to Mr. Reid of CPA., Dec. 12, 2:30 p.m.

ARA: RFWoodward/

Athens, Jan. 29, 1949

Dear General Marshall,

We have been very sorry to hear about your illness and hope to God that by now you are well on the way to recover your full strength again. I felt deeply for your dear wife who must have gone through agonies while you were being operated. Now you have resigned, and this makes us all very unhappy. I expect it has come as a shock to the whole world. You gave us the feeling of strength, stability and confidence. You and your people have made a happy combination during these last difficult years. Yours is a young nation still full of good human qualities, dynamic and unspoiled, who found in you the leader who gives them wisdom, stability and purpose, and who has directed their dynamic creative power towards a high human goal. This knowledge ought to give you great satisfaction, no matter how great the setbacks or disappointments.

Your success has not made you more proud but more humble; such is the reaction of greatness in front of the responsibilities that are involved. I saw it in your wife when she told me that she feels like crying every time her husband's efforts were truly recognized. So let my words to you be also a tribute to your wife.

I think that today, no matter if in power or out of power, you are one of the most clearminded, farsighted and at the same time humanminded statesmen in the world Your example is felt everywhere; consciously by some people and unconsciously by most. It is this influence which is so far more important than all the material help that your country is so generously producing.

You must smile when you hear such words coming from Greece, because as far as political leadership goes, so far we have not exactly followed your example!! We just passed through one of the worst political crises in the modern history of Greece. It was an unheard of state of affairs, and the position of my husband was very difficult. The political leaders had all quarrelled so much amongst each other that cooperation amongst each other became nearly impossible. There was no fundamental reason for these quarrels except petty ambitions and jealousies. It seemed impossible to form a government that would get the necessary majority in Parliament. We were faced with complete political disintegration at a time when our people and our army were clamouring for strong leadership, my husband was faced with an impossible situation where on the one hand parliament was not able to give a satisfactory solution and on the other hand my husband could not dissolve parliament and go in for new elections owing to the war. It was a first-class deadlock, full of dangers. So my husband decided to act. He sent for all political leaders represented in Parliament and read them a lecture. I enclose, as it may interest you, the wording of his appeal. When he had finished he allowed no discussion in front of him and ended by saying "May God enlighten you." Then he walked out. There was slight consternation amongst them, as you can well imagine. As for the public and the army, they went wild with enthusiasm. It was just what they wanted. Then started a battle of wits or

a game of political tennis where the ball was passed from the politicians to the King and from him back again to the politicians. They demanded to see him individually. He refused. They demanded he should choose a P. Minister. He told them to suggest him their own choice in writing. The four main party leaders (Tsaldaris, Venizelos, Papandreou, and Kanallopoulos) chose a banker called Diomedes. All the others chose Soffoulis. If my husband had taken the advice of the "four" he would have got a government with a certain majority, but we would not have got Papagos as C. in C. as Papandreou was opposed to him. It also would not have been the broad coalition goverment he had asked for. He chose Soffoulis under the condition that Papagos beomes C. in C. and Diomedes Vice Prime Minister. This compromised the four, of whom only Papandreou remained outside, into entering the government, as Diomedes was their candidate, it added the Soffoulis party and a new element, a party called "The New Party" under Markesini. It also safeguards the support of the other smaller parties who had chosen Soffoulis.

We have now a government which when parliament meets on Feb. 1 will get an overwhelming majority. The whole set-up is a much better one than ever before. It is the best that this present parliament (which I think is hopelessly out of date and does not represent the people any more, but with which we are stuck with until new elections can be held) can produce. The present government set-up consists of 1) a Coordination Committee composed of the political leaders in the government and the necessary ministers for each subject concerned, and 2) a so-called War Cabinet which again consists of the party leaders, the C. in C., the two Allied generals and Mr. Grady. My husband and I have great hopes in the leader of the "New Party", Mr. Markesini. He is highly intelligent and very dynamic. He is for the first time in the government and we hope he will contribute greatly to its success. I think this government will be a success. It is a much more balanced affair than we had before.

There is also complete confidence between my husband and the American and British Ambassadors. He always keeps them completely informed of any actions he takes or of any other happenings, so that there should never be any confusion. Both Ambassadors have been very helpful. Van Fleet and Papagos also get on very well together. Thank God. My husband told Grady that if ever there should be some difficulties arising then Grady should tell my husband at once and he will smooth things out. So at the moment everybody is happy. These days were very exciting. My husband risked a great deal but won the political battle with flying colours. The politicians needed a shock to bring them back to reality, and the country needed a sign of some moral strength that stands guard over our interests. This my husband succeeded to do. There remains still the military and economic battles to be won. In order to clear the Peloponnese we had to transfer one division from the North to the South. The result is stronger bandit activity in the North. You will have heard about the attacks on some of our bigger villages. The military situation is not worse than when you were here. The bandits are trying to go for effect at the moment. Papagos will do the best he can with the material he has in hand. But things are very difficult. We have got 197,000 soldiers. That means roughly 40,000 are regular fighting troops.

The rest are supplementary troops. The bandits are between 20,000 to 25,000. My husband since quite some time is trying to find out from our American friends if they want us to fight a Clearing Operation, then according to the figures I have given you we certainly need an increase, or do our friends wish us to fight just a Holding Operation to preserve the *status quo*. This of course on the long run will exhaust us and we shall end like China. American official opinion is not clear on this subject. So you see on the one hand we are left dangling for lack of a clear line, and on the other hand we are blamed for not daring move. The so to say "Increase" of 15,000 men is in reality not an increase at all. It is just a replacement of other 15,000 men. Of course it is very helpful as some of our men have not been home since two or even three years.

I will not write to you about the economic situation because I understand too little about it. Also this letter is already much too long. I hope you won't mind it.

My husband and I think of you and your wife as real friends. I hope that if ever I come to your country I can pay you a visit at your private home.

With all my best wishes to and and Mrs. Marshall,

Yours sincerely,

FREDERICA R.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

February 28, 1949

Mr. Secretary:

General Marshall sent me the original of this letter from Queen Frederica of Greece and asked that it be shown to you and then returned to him.

12 March 1949 *Pinehurst, North Carolina*

Your Majesty:

I was glad and honoured to receive your letter of January 29th. It followed me around quite a bit before it came to my hand, first the hospital in Washington, then here at Pinehurst from where it was returned to Washington, then Puerto Rico, and back to Washington where I had re-entered the hospital.

I appreciate very much your detailed account of the reorganisation of the Government which must have been a very trying period for His Majesty. From all accounts things are very much improved and I read a dispatch from Athens this morning reciting great improvement in the military situation in the Peloponnese.

As to the strength of the Army, I cannot predict until the hearings begin on the appropriation bills. However, public opinion in this country is hardening in a determination to settle this business of Communistic offensives in Europe, and if unemployment in this country does not seriously increase there should not be too much difficulty in securing the necessary appropriations.

In connection with your letter and my understanding with you, and having in mind the problem of my leaving the State Department, I took the great liberty of sending it to Mr Acheson, the new Secretary of State – 'for his eye only', the letter to be returned to me without record. I did this because I felt sure it would be very helpful if he had your graphic picture of what had happened and what the present political and higher military organisation was. He is a very fine and able man. You may recall that due to my absence in Moscow in the early spring of 1947 he made the presentation of the Greek case to Congress. It was a difficult task and registered a great departure from our previous history of policy, and he did a masterful job. I think you will find him a strong help in your troubles.

As to myself, I was feeling very well, in fact was virtually the only member of our delegation in Paris who was not sick, but the surgeons thought an operation, as a precautionary measure, was already far too long delayed. They sent a doctor to Paris with me and I was the only one who did not require his assistance!

It was apparent to me that I would be out of action for from four to six months at a most critical time, and that might be fatal with all the shifting currents and sudden Soviet moves. Therefore my resignation.

With warm regards from both of us, and with great respect.

Faithfully yours,

G. Marshall

26 August 1949 *Athens, ?????*

Dear General Marshall,

It is a long time ago since I last wrote to you so you may be interested again to learn how we think and feel in Greece.

?????

GENERAL G. C. MARSHALL
DODONA MANOR
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

July 10, 1950

Your Majesty:

In replying to your last letter I have been hoping to have some good news to give you regarding the tragic situation of the Greek children who were carried over the border to the Satellite states. I am distressed that greater progress has not been made. Yugoslavia stated, I am told, more or less publicly that they intended to return the children but the situation appears rather discouraging on the part of the Cominform states although they are hoping that something may come at least from Yugoslavia.

As head of the American Red Cross, I have been deeply interested in what this organization has done and is in the process of doing regarding your situation in Greece. I have found that something more than a half million dollars worth of wearing apparel was contributed in 1947 and that the most recent contribution consisting of one hundred thousand dollars worth of clothing and shoes for the children was made back in January 1949, the shipments occurring largely during the first six months of that year.

A recent report from the Greek Red Cross states that by February last, four-fifths of this children's clothing had been distributed to the villages in the north and those of Western Macedonia and the mountain area of Thessaly. Also, that the remaining items are still in process of being distributed. As you are the head of the Greek Red Cross I assume that you are familiar with these facts and in much greater detail than I am. I am told that the relationship between your Queen's Fund and the Greek Red Cross is excellent and that the working members of the Ladies Committee of the Queen's Fund are volunteers associated with the Greek Red Cross. My information is that supplies donated to the Greek Red Cross by our organization and other Red Cross societies has been turned over to the Queen's Fund for the benefit of the refugee children.

As you probably know, acting on the initiative taken by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, the Secretary-General of the United Nations invited the Governments of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia to designate representatives to meet him in Geneva on July 6th to discuss the problem of the return of the Greek children in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Because of the situation in Korea I undestand this meeting has been postponed. I hope not indefinitely. However, I am assured that the International Red Cross is continuing its efforts to affect the repatriation of the Greek children....

I hesitate to outline these various facts because you are probably intimately familiar with them. However, I should comment on the fact that the combined mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the league of Red Cross Societies, recently returned from Greece and brought the necessary documents required by the Czechoslovak Red Cross and that Government for the repatriation of 122 of the 128 Greek children identified by the Czechoslovak Red Cross.

As you know on May 30th the American Delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Warren R. Austin, transmitted a note from the United States to the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing our formal regret that no Greek child so far has been returned to Greece and that even elementary indications, indispensable for the solution of the problem, have not been furnished by the Governments concerned.

Recently, the Bulgarian Government declared its willingness to cooperate in the repatriation of the children and visas, I am told, are now being awaited by the International Red Cross for the entry into Bulgaria by its mission. It is too bad that negotiations on the exchange of ministers with Yugoslavia broke down.

Of course the present incident in Korea has tremendous possibilities either for good or bad, and this Government will act with determination, I am sure, which I think is essential if we are to get a good result. The present fighting, of course, involves the usual disadvantages of democracy which cannot engage in secret mobilizations and arbitrary decisions for violent action. It will be some time before the United States Forces and other United Nations contingents have concentrated the necessary strength in Korea. But the process is under way at top speed though the distances are tremendous and the difficulties very great. The most heartening phase of the entire matter is the apparent unanimous attitude not only of the people of this country but of the democratic world.

I saw that my military selection, General Van Fleet, has been withdrawn. I have not seen him but I hope he left a spirit of good will and understanding with your people.

Mrs. Marshall and I very frequently mention the possibility of that visit in our "private home" that I mentioned to you. I suppose protocol and secret service would

introduce many complications but I think I am capable of making the satisfactory arrangements. Mrs. Marshall has been suffering for almost nine months with "shingles" in her eyes. She still finds it very difficult to read or write and suffers considerable reaction if she gets tired.

Your Majesty I must ask your pardon for dictating this note but it is a rather lengthy one and I thought it best to put it in that form.

With Mrs. Marshall's love to the children and our respectful regards and admiration to the King and yourself.

Faithfully yours,

Athens, July 20, 1950

Dear General Marshall,

Looking through the news-magazine "Time" I saw your photo and read a few words of ours. These are:- "Something has to be done, and it has to be more dynamic." This encourages me to put before you once again some of our thoughts. The point I want to stress in this letter is the following:- In case of a third world war Greece should be used by our Allies as *The Bride-head* for a *Spearhead attack* against the soft underbelly of the Russian Empire. I know nothing about Allied strategic planning in case of another war and base my conclusions only upon assuming of what Allied reasoning and therefore planning may be.

In case of a Russian or German Communist attack on Western Europe what European forces can the United States count upon?

Western Germany is materially disarmed. France is spiritually disarmed. That is to say from a fighting spirit point of view only.

Italy from any army point of view is always better to have as an enemy than as a friend. As for England I do not know how many troops she has in Europe. It can't be much. I assume now that Europe unless soon greatly strengthened may be considered as a walk-over by the attackers and defenders alike. Allied strategy therefore may be only a defensive one for Europe and not an offensive one. Europe may have to be abandoned. I assume that Allied longterm resistance will be built up on the African continent. It will be the base for reconquering Europe eventually.

Such a possible defensive policy at the beginning will encourage the already rather defeatist outlook of most European people. This planning may have been born out of the knowlege that Europe is not capable to resist for long and therefore it may be right planning.

We in Greece feel very strongly that such kind of reasoning may be true for the rest of Europe but would not be true for Greece. Our small army is in first class shape with a good fighting spirit. Our people, when well led, are capable of superhuman efforts which usually succeed whenever there is a real challenge before them. Their morale is never affected by that of the rest of the world. Proof of this: our single handed and quite successful struggle against the untried Italian war-machine at a time when the whole of Europe had already collapsed and the rest of the Balkan countries had given in to the Axis powers without firing a shot. We even continued to fight the Germans on a second front for 6 weeks when the whole power of France had given in after only 4 weeks.

Greek psychology should be used by the United States for an aggressive strategic policy, and not wasted in a rearguard action. Our people's capacity should never be judged by our hopeless political leadership. That would be a desperate mistake. Our politicians and our people are like two races apart. We know both very well and know what is nonsense and what is serious in our local set-up.

But to come back to my argument. When you have to defend yourself on one front would it not be a good idea and "Dynamic" to immediately go into an attack on another front? Greece should be that front and should be built up for the use of United States forces from now on. All war materials needed for whatever amount of troops necessary in waging an attack, should be built up and distributed in different parts of the country So that it only needs to fly in and land the troops in a very short time. Their heavy equipment they would find on the spot. It may be argued that something like this could never be done without the Russian knowing about it. Our feeling is that they should know about it. Why should our side be so tactful all the time? It is not necessary any more. But if this is considered unwise, let the stuff come in under the cover of assistance for the Greek army.

It may be thought that my husband and I are suggesting such an idea because we wish to save our own skin and that of our people. This is wrong. We know very well that our skins will not easily be saved anyhow. We will fight and now to the last man, fully aware that there may be no salvation.

My argument is purely objective hoping that if it finds consideration it might help to shorten a war rather than have it dragged out by endless rear-guard actions. We have seen too much of them in the last war owing to lack of preparations and consequently of defensive planning instead of a dynamic aggressive plan. I repeat once more:- Greece should never be a purely rearguard action but be developed as a spring-board into Eastern Europe where the people are not Communists and the Enemy would fight on hostile ground. Instead of possible withdrawing to Africa and from there after a year or two retake Europe, why not have a bridgehead in Europe for good. The best place is Greece.

You may smile about my unorthodox way of reasoning, but maybe during unorthodox times such reasoning may be justified.

Don't you think I have been quite good in interpreting your words that "something should be done and it has to be dynamic"?!!!

Politically at the moment we are in a mess. The present Government under General Plastiras is unspeakably awful. (I point out that Queens have no opinion on the subject!) You may remember my remarks on Plastiras' pro-fellow-travelling attitude in my last letter previous to our March elections. Plastiras was brought to power owing to a rather unfortunate personal intervention by Mr. Grady. He broke the first post-election government under Venizelos by making it quite clear that unless Venizelos cleared out and gave way to Plastiras as Prime Minister there would be no more Marshall aid. None of us have quite understood what his idea was. But since then the Communist fifth column is reorganising, fellow-travellers are given big positions and dangerous Communists have been let out of prison and detention camps. This would be quite heart-breaking if we did not have our army in such good shape and under such loyal leadership.

Plastiras' actions, outrageous as they are, serve one good purpose and that is, that they help to unify and strengthen the outraged nationalist element against him and all fellow-travellers. This government has to be got rid off as soon as possible. If it does not fall by itself, and there are strong indications that it will, then in one way or another it has to be brought to fall. It is too ridiculous that instead of consolidating our victories by our army, we encourage all the disruptive elements in our country to become most active again under the protection of the government who was imposed by Grady. However, these mistakes can still be rectified. It is just a question of timing and method. We hope and pray that the new Ambassador will be more cooperative and not act independently without consulting my husband, or even act against my husband. Even if he has to interfere then he should interfere in support of my husband's line but not against him.

We have been very sad to see Van Fleet leave. He has been a first class friend. There was perfect cooperation between my husband, General Van Fleet and General Papagos. Van Fleet trusted us and we trusted him. He shared our hopes and fears and understood the Greek situation perfectly. Mutual respect and friendship between him, Papagos and us helped stabilise the position and contributed largely to our military success. We shall never forget that Van Fleet was your own brilliant choice. It was sad to see him go. Perhaps he will come back one day?

I hope this letter will find you and your wife in good health. I hope her eye trouble has passed and she is well and happy again. My children still treasure the small pencils she gave to them.

I do not expect any comments from you on my suggestions as I realise this can not be done to anybody so completely far removed from military matters as myself. I shall only be grateful for some kind thought over the matter.

With affectionate greetings to you both from my husband and me.

Yours

(Signed) Frederica R.

Kate Brady

New York has been calling again and asked if General Marshall got the Spec. Air Mail from the Greek Embassy. They would like an immediate answer and said to call collect if necessary. I've done all I can here so if there is any message here is the no. he gave me.

J. Bieder

FROM: MP ... 69 23

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 13, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dean Rusk feels that you could just say that you are glad to have her views and that you assume that recent events have considerably changed the situation she described, and pretty much let it go at that.

Rusk feels that we should not get involved in commitments about our long-range future here. He indicated that they were sending someone down from Gen. Mac Arthur's Headquarters to take a look at the situation to see what was needed to put it in a state of defence.

He feels that her letter just requires a pleasant acknowledgement.

****

Mr. Cromie, Greek desk feels that you should express distress that greater progress has not been made in the return of children, absolutely nothing has happened. Yugoslavia stated more or less publicly that they intend to return the children, for sometime they promised to do so but there has been no developments and it is rather discouraging on the part of the Cominform states, although they are hoping that something may come at least from the Yugoslavia situation.

Cromie thought it would be helpful if you said that you had been informed that the present government seems to be working out fairly well and that political stability is obviously essential for good recovery. He thought you might also like to mention how unfortunate it was that negotiations on the exchange of ministers with Yugoslavia broke down.

****

You may wish to write here something about Red Cross and your own interest in their problem (Note attached memorandum)

(MEMORANDUM NOT TYPED. ORIGINAL COPY IS WITH MRS. L. PAPANICOLAOU)

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE. MARYLAND

FILE

November 9, 1950

Dear Mr. Secretary

I am returning the letter which you gave me for comment.

I fully .... in the views of the writer on the importance of the Balkans as a Second Front, and of the Communistic effects of the government of Prime Minister Plastiras.

Very sincerely
James Van Fleet
Lieut. Gen. USA

General George C. Marshall
Secretary of Defense
Washington

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

21 December 1950

Your Majesty:

I have never acknowledged your letter of July 20 suggesting certain action relative to the crisis developed by the outbreak of the fighting in Korea. At the time I sent it to our senior military official, General Bradley, in order that he might have the benefit of your ideas regarding Western Europe and Greece in particular. As you suggested in your letter, it was not permissible then for me to make any formal comments. Since then, however, my status has changed, as you know, and all these matters come to my official attention.

I had a lengthy talk with General Van Fleet and had him submit to me later his written views on the situation. You can well imagine just what they were. Since then I have been very much in the thick of the struggle of building up our military power as rapidly as possible, and have spent a considerable part of my time before the appropriations committees of Congress and in meetings concerned with rearmament of Western Europe. As a matter of fact, I stepped into the latter problem at a formal meeting in New York with Bevin, Schumann, Shinwell and Moch just a few hours after I took over this present office of mine.

Naturally I have been heavily involved in matters pertaining to fighting in Korea and the very threatening situation that is developing there.

I had a rather lengthy talk with your ambassador the other day just prior to his return to Athens. I knew him and was entertained by him in Moscow in 1947 during one of those periods of futile negotiations.

In this extremely dangerous world situation and with emotions aflame, it is very difficult to manage a calm and deliberate approach to the necessities of the day. I have been through similar periods. They present many trying difficulties.

I was happy to see the other day that a beginning had been made, however minute in the returning of your children to Greece. I can only hope this will expand into large numbers with the consequent tremendous effect on the morale of your people.

Mrs. Marshall appreciated very much your inquiry regarding her and her eye trouble. She still has to be careful or she suffers a temporal return, but she appears to be in very good health, though this present turn in our affairs has ruined our home life and all our plans. We have closed up our place at Leesburg, Virginia, and have not been able to open our little place at Pinehurst, North Carolina, merely living in a very small and at present hidden apartment here in Washington.

She was particularly pleased with the reference to your children and little pencils she gave them, and with the affectionate greetings you sent us.

With our prayers for you and His Majesty and your people in the New Year, believe me, always,

Painfully yours

Her Majesty Queen Frederika of the Hellenes
Royal Palace
Athens, Greece

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

PERSONAL 13 March 1951

Your Majesty:

I am taking the liberty of dictating this letter so that it will be easier reading for you and a better job by me.

I think about the First of May one General Frederick is to be sent to Greece to replace General Jenkins. Confidentially, I wanted you to know something about General Frederick because I feel regarding him very much as I did regarding General Van Fleet.

Frederick was one of the outstanding battle leaders in the last war. He was a Brigadier General at thirty-six, winning this promotion by gallantry and leadership in the Anzio Bridgehead and ..... months later he was promoted to Major General for largely the same reason. As a Colonel he organized and commanded a special task force, which was a combination of paratroopers and rangers.

He commanded a special airborne force of allied troops in the landing in Southern France and commanded the 45th Infantry Division in the final campaign of the war.

He has had numerous decorations for bravery and I am told he was wounded fourteen times during the war.

I hope that Frederick will not become aware of the fact that I have communicated with you, but I wanted you to know that he is a very able man and I am certain his advise would be sound and his help invaluable.

Mrs. Marshall and I frequently speak of you and His Majesty and the children and cherish the three delightful Christmas cards with the print of your family.

Mrs. Marshall has been smitten with the fly this winter but has recuperated at our winter place at Pinehurst, North Carolina, and is now well out of the woods. I had the same trouble – the first time for me in many years, and my convalescence was complicated by the necessity of getting out of bed and going before committees of Congress and then back to bed – not a very restful convalescent procedure, but we have been having a hard battle over our military manpower legislation.

Please be kind enough to present my compliments to His Majesty and believe me, with high regard and admiration for you personally.

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd) G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty
Queen Frederika of the Hellenes
Royal Palace, Athens, Greece

American Embassy
Athens, Greece, March 19, 1951

Excellency:

At the request of General George Marshall, the Secretary of Defense, I am transmitting the enclosed letter addressed to Her Majesty The Queen.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure:
As stated above.

His Excellency
P. Leloudas,
Marshal of the Court
of H.M. the Queen,
The Royal Palace,
Athens.

Tatoi – Athens
April 15. 51.

Dear General Marshall,

I hope this letter will not be too late in order to do some good. We are getting worried about the discussions that are taking place behind the scenes, between our allies of who will be given the Supreme Command in our part of the world.

As we have always been frank with you we shall continue to give you our honest opinion. My husband, myself and the whole of Greece would very much like to see an American in the position of Supreme Commander. We want to come directly under American supreme command in case of war, and not under the British.

We believe in American leadership and would find purpose in world politics. We like your courageous and dynamic approach towards all problems and we like your American and sincere outlook upon life in general which serves (?) friends ... well with the ... of our own people. First General Van Fleet and now lately your own ambassador ... have contributed greatly in something ... atmosphere of mutual confidence and faith between our two countries. So to such a happy atmosphere was added the promise of an American Supreme Commander. I think there would be very little our combined efforts could not achieve. Admiral ... has visited us several times.

We liked him very much. I mention this because there have ben rumours that he might be chosen for the job. My husband and I feel very strongly that in times of great confusion, efficient co-operation must be based upon personal confidence between those individuals who share the responsability in achieving a common good. Your country has won a strong moral position in Greece. This should on no account be sacrificed to the interest of anybody else (who if I may say so privately, has had the chance but lost it). During my further discussion on the subject amongst our allies, we would be grateful if you keep in mind how very strongly we feel here in Greece that we quite definitely want to come under direct American command. Such a decision would give support to the dynamic and optimistic spirit in Greece which is very important to keep up in a country so close to the Iron Curtain. A contrary decision may easily encourage a spirit of compromise, and would result into passionate (?), political intrigues and confusion. I once more therefore urge you with all my heart, don't give in on this point, stand firm and give the supreme command to an American, for this part of the world. The position is already yours. It must not be given up. Please excuse my rather strong way of expressing myself. But that is how we feel. I also do not want you to misunderstand and think that I am mixing in things which are none of my affair. You will understand that it is easier to tell you all this unofficially than that it were expressed officially. I am fully confident that you will treat this letter as top secret. You know our admiration and confidence in yourself and it is in this spirit that this letter was written.

We are delighted to receive General Frederick whom you so highly recom-.mend. Your confidence in him is enough to give him ours. We shall do our best to make him happy in our country. With great pride we have seen General Van Fleet being appointed in person in Korea. How happy our soldiers will be to serve under him.

Please give my love to your dear wife. It would be so wonderful if both of you could visit us again.

I know how busy you are and how many troubles are yours. We here in Greece firmly believe in you and all your decisions. We pray that God may keep you and protect you for your own country as well as ours and that you should be successful in all your efforts and wishes for humanity as a whole.

My husband joins me in saying to you, God bless you and your work.

Frederica R.

Athens, June 8, 1951

Dear General Marshall

As this is rather a long letter I thought it might be easier for you to read it in type rather than have you struggle with my very bad hand-writing.

Quite a lot of mud-slinging started against members of the Palace which were implicitly believed by Papagos. Again and again my husband talked to him and asked him to after all believe what he, the King, thinks and feels about him and not to listen to what his servants or court-officials are supposed to have said or not said about him.

Eventually pure gossip based on no concrete facts whatsoever made Papagos do his prima donna act and resign.

Before the resignation became public my husband sent for him and argued with him for several hours. Not only did he demand that Papagos should remain in his post, but he also made it quite clear to him the grave reaction that might follow his resignation. He explained to him the international reasons telling him that, not only did my husband hope to see him for a long time still at the head of our army, but also that one day perhaps he might be in command of Allied troops in the Balkans.

No arguments helped. He did not like the palace set-up and therefore felt he must resign. Although my husband and I feel that our surrounding consist of quite nice people, we told Papagos that even if every member of the palace was a thief, he morally owes it to my husband as his loyal friend to prevent from getting to the public any disagreements between him and the King that were far from any military interests.

My husband even offered to ask the government to make an official investigation so as to give satisfaction to his grievances. He categorically refused this.

My husband then reminded him that it might look rather ridiculous for a great Field Marshal to leave his post owing to unconfirmed rumours and gossips.

Nothing helped. He was too well in his prima-donna mood.

My husband notified the Prime Minister who already had tried his best but had also failed. A communique was issued stating that in spite of all efforts by the Government and the King, Papagos insists on resigning for health reasons. (This was also the official reason given in his letter of resignation to the Prime Minister.)

At the same time an announcement was made that the Government asked the King to take over personally the office of C. in C. This is within the spirit of the Constitution and was also held by King Constantine, my husband's father.

The idea of my husband taking over personally was meant in order to hold .... prestige a possible shock in the army, and to counter-balance a negative action with a positive one.

What may be of the greatest interest to you is of course our army. Our army and army leadership is perfectly and fanatically loyal to the King. A very minor attempt by a few fanatically royalist officers was made to react against Papagos' resignation a few hours after it was made known. They thought they were acting in support of the King, knowing Papagos to be the King's friend. Papagos himself still in command dealt with them quickly.

On taking over, my husband appointed General Gregoropoulos Chief of Combined Staff and General Tsakalotos Chief of Army Staff. Both of them are well experienced first-class officers.

Tsakalotos has lately been in the States where he has been shown many army installations and has returned enthusiastically pro-American.He is a much younger man than Papagos and all this time has been one of or most aggressive and energetic commanders in the field. He has already made a quick inspection trip to the different Corps Commands and returned fully satisfied of the complete loyalty, efficiency and devotion to duty as shown by all. Tsakalotosis a man who will keep the Army well on its toes. He is a live wire with a good dose of healthy ambition in him. What we liked about him during these years of fighting was just his positive spirit of attack rather than the more easy spirit of defence. He has also a great gift to inspire his men. I do not want to say too much as he now has to prove himself in his new position. But the promise is good.

Gregoropoulos the new Chief of Combined Staff has also proved himself as an excellent soldier in the field, with an added talent as a coordinator.

The new army set-up promises to be a highly satisfactory one. It may even be easier for General Frederick, himself quite now, to work with younger people. But that you must ask him yourself. I do not venture an opinion on this subject.

Any attempt to suggest that our army cannot be trusted only because one man has left is insulting and bad for the morale of the whole country.

I think what shocked my husband more than anything else in this unfortunate story is the following:- One hour before my husband took over, Papagos spoke to all the Corps Commanders and told them that, in spite of the health reason which he had officially given, he had resigned over his disapproving ever some of the King's court officials. You will understand that no matter what excuse we may find for Papagos' altogether strange attitude, this last action is from a military point of view quite unacceptable. It shocked our military leaders.

To sum up the effect that Papagos' resignation had on the Country's life:-

MILITARILY. The army took the shock splendidly and is well settled in its ...... under its new leadership.

POLITICALLY. The politicians have always been jealous of Papagos' great powers and seemed to be pleased he is gone, and are united against his return. Should he have

been imposed back again they would have immediately taken the Emergency Law before Parliament and thus stripped him of most powers. For them Papagos belongs to the past. My husband hoped to be able to use this rather negative unity of theirs for uniting them positively within a government.

THE PUBLIC. The public has been sadly shocked. They know Papagos as the King's devoted Friend. For him to have resigned owing to his disapproval over the Palace set-up must mean that the King is surrounded by bandits. The wildest rumours went around. None of them very flattering for my husband and me. As a matter of fact public opinion was definitely against us the first days. This is quite understandable and should be considered a healthy reaction. All they know is that Papagos is the King's friend. They do not know the decisive details that have made us lose confidence completely in the further usefulness of the great man. We shall not give him away. It has been our own fault for having built up, supported and overtaxed with virtue an already very virtuous man.

Many of our friends are very upset because they think that we have lost in popularity. Popularity is the last thing we thought about. All our worry was, will the Army stand the shock? Well the army stood it better than anybody else. The public will come around again in no time. As a matter of fact, they are swinging already. We are not a bit worried on that point. How can they understand what we hardly understood?

CONCLUSIONS.

After the resignation has become public any attempt to bring him back became impossible. Where the King and the Government had failed to persuade him, the Americans could not possibly succeed. It would have looked like imposing him on an army that already had borne one shock and was well settled under its new leadership.

There also would have been great danger of him becoming indirectly Military dictator over Greece. It would have given him the chance to impose himself upon the King and any government, thus neutralising any other influences except his own and those of some rather ambitious men behind the scenes. He would have done all that based on apparent American support with the added possibility of playing the same Prima-donna stunts with the Americans that he has played this last year with the King.

Just a few words about the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Purifoy. During this last crisis he gained our full admiration, not only as an Ambassador but as a man. His position was really terrible. He hurried back from the States to help prevent great harm. This I imagine in the eyes of his own people in the States would have meant a reacceptance by the King and the Government of Papagos as C. in C. We watched him move with the greatest tact and, what is more, with utter sincerity. It is not easy for any outsider to understand what is fundamental and what is superficial in our people who are so full of greatness and at the same time so full of nonsense. It needs deep human insight

and utter unselfishness of purpose to be able to deal successfully with our people whenever they get confused, which happens quite often.

As far as we can judge, Mr. Purifoy sacrificed personal spectacular success in order to remain true to fundamentally moral principles, thus proving to us his Ambassadorship of what is best and truest and greatest, not only in himself but also in his Country.

Apart from what we think about him, he has also remained on the best of terms with Papagos, our politicians and our new army leadership. His influence in this country has not only been well established but has been greatly increased.

I thought you might like to know that our confidence in American unselfish leadership is not only justified but is continuously increasing.

By now you will be quite exhausted having had to read this long letter. I am fully conscious of what I have afflicted upon you. But since you know so much about Greece I thought you might want to know the inside story of a crisis that had a great deal in common with the MacArthur crisis in the States.

I can imagine that you well enjoyed your trip to Korea. A visit to the Front is always a great compensation for the troubles one has with people who do nothing but talk and talk and ..... around with nonsensical details.

I am reading with the greatest interest and joy your wife's excellent book.

It is really too sweet of her to have autographed and sent it to me.

With all my heart I send you my best wishes. May God keep and protect you both for many, many years, not only for each other but for your country, for your friends abroad, and for the world in general.

(Sgd F.R.)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1951

Dear General Marshall:

Thank you very much indeed for letting me read the most interesting letter from Queen Frederica. Since we have been missing each other lately, I am returning it to you by special messenger, and will have a word with you about it when I see you next.

With warm regards and many thanks.

Sincerely Yours,
(sgd) Dean Acheson

The Honourable
George C. Marshall,
Secretary of Defense.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

16 July 1951

Your Majesty:

Prior to your recent letter of June 8 you had written me a note expressing your views on command in the Eastern Mediterranean. I delayed answering the early note until I could give you definite news on the matter. A final decision has not yet been reached but Admiral Sherman is now in Europe and I think his visit will precipitate the decision, and I hope it will be to your satisfaction.

I feel much disturbed for His Majesty and you over the affair Papagos. Your letter of June 8 therefore was an illuminating description. In this morning's New York Times I saw the supposed record of an interview of His Majesty with the General. It seems to bear out your description of his reactions I do hope you will be spared any further embarrassment and related crises, though the interview reported in the press this mornig does not encourage that hope.

You referred to Van Fleet's performance in Korea. He did a masterful job during the two Communist offensives, which I now think inflicted on them more serious damage than we had at first supposed. They now appear to have been badly crippled. I think his instant and deeply penetrating counter-offensive which was

launched while the Communists were still pursuing their most successful penetration – that on the Eastern front against South Korean divisions, was an astonishing and demoralizing surprise to them.

I saw Van Fleet in Korea, in fact flew – in a tiny plane, all along the front with him and Ridgway, and found him in excellent shape. I talked, incidentally, at some length with the Commander of your Greek unit which has been doing a fine job.

Mrs. Marshall is down in the country forty miles from here, at our Leesburg, Virginia, home to escape the torrid heat of Washington – 92 degrees the past few days with high humidity. I have to be here in town from Monday to Friday, as commuting that distance is too much of an effort, so we only have weekends together. I thought we had finished with that business of separations, but such is not yet the case, nor finished with frequent tiring appearances before Congressional committees. In that connection, I had to hurry back from Korea to appear before a committee for some four hours the same day I returned.

With warm regards to His Majesty and yourself, believe me, with great respect.

Faithfully yours

(Sgd) G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty
Queen Frederika of the Hellenes
Royal Palace
Athens, Greece

Pinehurst, N.C. December 1 – 51

Your Majesty:

This very informal note carries Xmas greetings and every good wish for the New Year to your Majesties and the children from Mrs. Marshall and me. We sincerely hope that all of you are in good health and happy and that your people are enjoying the fruits of success and a feeling of greater security.

We are both well and profiting from the restful period following my resignation as Secretary of Defense. We are fine in our winter home, a small cottage at this graphic center of America, with occasional game shooting trips to islands off the South Carolina and Georgia coasts. We may spend two months this winter at Cuernavaca in Mexico, but haven't yet made up our minds.

I have purposely waited for the change to be effected before writing to express my regret at the failure and embarassment following the detail of our General Frederick to Greece. Quite evidently since I had last seen him in 1945 a serious change had occured, possibly the reaction of a daring, restless fighting man to the boredom of peace time, tranquility which most of us pray for. He was selected for the detail hope to come into office, but I felt that an unusually fine choice has been made and wrote to you accordingly. I am sorry for the result.

In Korea last June I had a talk with your troop commander. He gave a fine account of his people, which was emphatically emphasized by both General Ridgway and Van Fleet.

With our very best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd) G. C. Marshall

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

Febryary 1. 1952

Your Majesty:

Mrs. Marshall and I were greatly appreciative of the card of Holiday greetings and New Year's wishes from His Majesty and yourself. It is a great compliment for us to feel that you still have us in mind.

I am taking the liberty of sending you a photograph to indicate my state of health and state of mind these days.

I wrote you a longhand note a month or two ago describing what had been happening to us and expressing my regret over mis-endorsement of a certain officer and I hope that you find the present arrangements entirely satisfactory.

Having in mind your earnest recommendation regarding command arrangements, I hope His Majesty and you are satisfied with the final decision in the matter.

Most confidentially, with regard to your Army leadership, when I took over as Chief of Staff of our Army in 1939 and 1940 I picked up Eisenhower and Bradley (now Chairman of our Chiefs of Staff and of our NATO organization) as Lt. Colonels,

and Collins (now Chief of Staff of the Army) and Smith (Eisenhower's Chief of Staff in the War) as Majors and they were comparatively young for their then rank. Smith is now head of our Central Intelligence Agency. Ridgway, in Japan and Korea, was incidentally a Major in 1940 and Lt. General at the finish. A propos of these comments I must admit the military departments find it very difficult in these so called peaceful days to reach down to the younger generations with any purpose of their seniors.

With warm regards to His Majesty and yourself and with great respect.

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd) G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty Queen Frederika of the Hellenes
Royal Palace
Athens, Greece

Athens, May 7th, 1952

Dear General Marshall

For a very long time now I have had a very bad conscience that I have not written to you immediately when I received your letters. You have often been in my mind and both my husband and I have felt a great longing to be able to talk to you freely and openly about the hopes and fears that we have about our Country. It is difficult to write these things in a letter as much of it could be misunderstood for lack of proper introduction and expression. Anyway I will try as best as I can to give you a clear picture about the political situation in Greece.

As you know Papagos eventually entered politics. During the September elections he gained the former royalist vote and came out as the strongest single Party, but he did not get an over-all majority, which was contrived by a combination of the Plastiras and Venizelos Parties. The leaders of these two Parties offered to the King immediately after elections to serve in a National Coalition Government of the three Parties under Papagos. The King therefore offered the Premiership first to Papagos, going so far as to write to him a personal letter urging him to accept for the sake of National Unity. Papagos flatly refused, following strictly the de Gaulle line of either myself alone or not at all. He asked for immediate new elections with the Majority system and this has been his slogan ever since.

The two other Parties having shown their goodwill to cooperate with Papagos and failed, then formed a Government without him, Plastiras becoming Prime Minister and Venizelos Vice-Prime Minister, and are still in power to-day. Although everybody

has said that this Government cannot stand and is the weakest we have had so far, it refuses to fall.

The King's efforts and policy remain to keep the Country together politically and to prevent it from falling into two fanatic camps, as fanaticism in this Country should always be avoided at all cost. For this reason he considers that new elections at this stage should be avoided. If this Government falls the King will try to give the mandate once again to Papagos who, unless persuaded to cooperate with the other Parties, will refuse and force elections, the third within two years.

Just a short thought about what happens in case we have elections. Should Plastiras come in once more, and this time with full power, it may be difficult to control some of his ultra-left followers. Should Papagos come in with full power he may be the dream Greece is longing for and which we had dreamed three years ago, (from which, however, my husband and I had rather a rude awakening). We therefore personally keep in our minds one or two severe reservations about the political leadership that he will provide. Should he fail by either having to make a quasi-dictatorship or by not succeeding in the normal parliamentary manner, the situation then can only rebound to the ultra-left.

We therefore beg our American friends to use caution and not to let themselves be compromised completely with only one side.

At this stage the Parties are trying to involve the King and the Americans for and against each other. My husband, however, has decided not to budge from the strictly Constitutional and Parliamentary line, which has been his stand ever since the beginning of this Reign. He will not move either in favour of the one or of the other side. We have a Parliament and Governments normally stand or fall in Parliament according to its vote of confidence. (The last vote-taking which took place about six weeks ago gave the present Government an over-all majority of 18 votes).

It is our opinion that our Allied Friends in close coopeation with the King should always work to keep Unity within this Country, especially now as the Liberal-Left is still ready to cooperate. (I doubt if this would be so after new elections). As a matter of fact only a few days ago my husband had a talk with our American Ambassador, whom we like very much, suggesting that, as the State Department had through their official representative once or twice before made their opinion known on Greek inner political affairs, (such a Grady supporting Plastiras to become Prime Minister two yeras ago, and Peurifoy expressing his preference for a definite electoral law, etc.,) the time is now ripe to support the King's policy, which is the formation of a National Coalition Government.

To only, through criticism, weaken and possibly break a Government without knowing what the future might bring is so utterly negative and frustrating, while to use the same efforts to succeed in creating a National Coalition Governmnt would be so morally justified. The formation of such a Government would include at least the three big Parties under Papagos, Plastiras and Venizelos.

It is the King's definite opinion that such a Government is the only Government which could introduce necessary unpopular financial measures, and also prevent the Country from falling into two fanatic camps. (Already one can hear the Opposition accusing the Government of fellow-travelling and the Government accusing the Opposition of Facism and dictatorial intentions).

At this stage the opposition under Papagos is using the financial crisis as a weapon against the Government, and we know that, should Papagos force elections and possibly win them, not only the Plastiras Party and the Venizelist Party but the whole anti-Papagos world will unite and fanatically fight Papagos in he same way, if not more forcefully, that he fights them now.

Again, therefore, he wil not be able to take unpopular measures that would serve as a useful weapon in the hands of his opponents.

I point out as I did before, to-day Plastiras and Venizelos are still willing to cooperate with Papagos, but once in the opposition the anti-conservative world will be turned into a fanatic opposition.

Another thing we fear is that too open support by one Allied Country for one Party will leave the neglected Parties open to look for support from some other Allied Country. This is a thing that has to be absolutely avoided, as it will not tear only the inner Greek harmony but also, eventually the harmony of our Allied Friends in this part of the World.

That is why we insist and cannot insist too strongly that this time the King's Policy should and must be given all the necessary support.

And now enough about this boring subject, only let me once more point out to you the great care that should be taken about a letter like this, for if it should ever fall into the wrong hands or its contents be known as coming from me, it could do me personally no end of harm.

Lately we have had a very interesting time when Eisenhower, his Staff and Admiral Garney spent a few days in Greece. My husband continuously stresses to all the leading American personalities that we have met so far, the advantage of considering Greece a a Springboard for attack in case of another war, the subject about which I have written to you once before. Our army is in excellent shape, no matter what rumours may be spread on that subject for inner political reasons.

After having met so many important people and great ones in this world, there are only two people who have never yet been surpassed in our high opinion and esteem for them. One of them is the late General Smuts and the second one is yourself. It must be the compelte lack of egocentricity that makes people like you truly human and therefore truly great.

Is there no possibility for you and your wife to come and visit us again? Not only would we absolutely love it and give you as quiet and happy a time as possible, but also it would be of the greatest help to us.

Last week we had a British invasion. The occasion was the unveiling of a Memorial to the British Troops who fell in Greece during the 1940–1941 Campaign. Lord Halifax is here as Churchill's representative. I like him very much. I think he is a very nice man. (I say that especially in order to persuade you to come here, the sooner the better!!!)

I was very interested to see how Eisenhower appreciated your good opinion of him during the War. He told me that your telegrams to him gave him more moral support than anything else during those difficult times.

We are delighted to know that things have turned out so well about Admiral Carney and us. Let's hope nothing will upset that apple-cart. As for any rumours about Greek Troops ever to be placed under an Italian General, I would not know whom to pity most, the Italian General or the Greek troops. As a matter of fact I think it was only a fleeting thought in the minds of Great ones. Carney suits us to the ground and we had a very happy reunion when he was here a short time ago.

At the moment the Turkish Prime Minister is in Athens. It seems they would want us to go and pay them a visit in Turkey. Personally I think that can only do good and it might be an interesting experience.

We have been frightfully upset to hear about General Van Fleet's son. We knew him very well while he was here in Athens. How hard on poor Van Fleet and his wife. He was such a success here in Greece.

As for General Frederick, he never fell foul with us. We liked him very much. If he had a few failings they never became apparent to us, and, after all, a brave man like him is allowed to have some kind of weakness.

We are most interestedly following the pro-election campaign in your Country. Pity that you are not a candidate. WE would have all voted for you.

Montgomery is now here in Athens. He let us know unofficially that he goes to bed at ten o'clock. So I am wondering whether we are supposed to arrange the official dinner next to his bed, with him sitting gaily in it eating from a tray!!!

Could you please be so kind as to send me another photograph of yours as my husband has taken the one you sent to me put it up in his office downstairs. (I was not consulted)! I think it is an excellent photograph and therefore would like to have one of my own.

For you to remember what I look like when I am serious I am including the latest official photograph and also a snapshot of my real self.

From now on I shall try to write to you more often as I think developments in the Country will remain quite interesting.

With my very best wishes to your wife whom I would so like to see again, and the very best also from my husband to both of you.

Yours in all friendship

(signed) Frederica

(Copy in Marshall archives)

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

June 25, 1952

Your Majesty:

I was very much pleased and interested to receive your letter, and immensely gratified and flattered by your observation regarding me, personally, and my services. I won't elaborate on this last other than to comment on the great pride I feel in the knowledge of your good opinion of me.

I have delayed writing this letter waiting for a photograph to be finished, one in colors, that I wish to send you. It has not yet been completed, but I will probably get it off next week. I am taking the liberty of sending you two, one of me alone and one, most informal, of Mrs. Marshall and myself.

We were delighted and deeply appreciative to receive the two photographs of you, both of which are excellent, and the informal one charming.

I am a little puzzled by the serious part of your letter in that you are careful to state that the fact of your writing as frankly as you did to me must be carefully guarded, because I do not know exactly how to make profitable use of the information you recite. However, I think I may find a satisfactory procedure. Certainly, your situation is very complicated, as well as serious.

I was relieved to find that the General Frederick incident had not embarrassed His Majesty or you, though it may be you were being merely kind in what you had to say about the affair.

Mrs. Marshall has not been too well this Spring, suffering from a severe pain in her back. A complete hospital examination revealed nothing wrong in any respect other than as a result of pressure, and she was given a supporting harness, I suppose you would call it. This proved, at first, too tight and did more harm than good, but now, with a refitting, she is getting along very much better.

I was very glad to read your comments on the existing state of harmonious public opinion in Greece. Remember what I once told you about your qualities when I had the temerity to speak with the interest frankness to a Queen? I have been proven right time and again since that conversation.

With warmest regards from Mrs. Marshall and me to you and His Majesty, and our love to the children.

With great respect, Faithfully yours,

G. C. Marshall

Athens, June 26, 1952

Dear General Marshall

We have just come back from Turkey. It has been a great success all round.

Greek-Turkish friendship has been put on a very personal basis We made great friends with the President who is a modest and retiring man. We especially liked the Prime-Minister who is young, energetic and very intelligent with a great sense of humour. The Foreign Minister is also intelligent and charming. During ten days' official visit, there is enough chance to break the very official atmosphere and have some friendly conversations on all subjects. My husband and his Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who came with us, are very satisfied with the opinions expressed by our Turkish friends. I also think that the Turks are delighted with the opinions that were expressed to them.

In an official speech my husband declared that the time has come for both countries to forget forever the bitter history of 500 years which deeply divided our two countries. He pointed out that Greece would defend all her borders in case of war. This pleased the Turks who were nervous that we might give up Thrace and thus expose their flank. My husband also told them privately that we would ever be inclined psychologically to go in for an attack, should this be accepted as a general plan by the Allies if war breaks out somewhere else in Europe.

He made it quite clear that no matter what happens the Greek soldier would stand side by side with the Turkish soldier on the Greek-Turkish border. We would not plan to withdraw our troops further south, which unfortunately, just before we left for Turkey, Papagos in a newspaper article had proposed that the Greek army might have to do. This had made our Turks rather nervous about our intentions. Anyhow they were completely reassured. (Some military persons when they become politicans can make very stupid statements without thinking what political results they can produce.)

Every day during our visit brought us closer together with the Turks. The public was quite touching, and the reception we got in Ankara and especially in Constantinople was beyond every description. We were surprised and delighted. You must remember that for 500 years, since the fall of Constantinople, no Greek King has ever entered this town. The big Cathedral of St. Sophia (for hudnreds of years a Moslem Mosque and lately turned into a Byzantine museum) is still viewed by all Greeks as the center of the Orhtodox Church. You will also remember that my husband's father, King Constantine, had his victorious troops right to the low hills overlooking Ankara during the Asia Minor campaign, before they were defeated.

Conflicting emotions were aroused in many quarters when we decided to make this journey. But the enthusiasm that has been created within both countries made our decision more than worthwhile. There was nothing the Turks did not do to show us their appreciation. They even cleared up while we were there a few trade and custom

difficulties. In the near future Greeks and Turks won't have to use passports in order to travel in each other's country. A rather tricky fishing conflict was satisfactorily solved. The happier the atmosphere got the easier it became to discuss the more difficult subjects.

One of them was Cyprus. As you know the Greeks of Cyprus are getting more and more restless, and knowing our people nothing will stop them until they have achieved their dream to unite Cyprus with Greece. They claim, and quite rightly so, that nowadays no country has a right to keep as a colony for themselves Europeans and Christians, which the Greeks are after all. It is the great problem between our people and the British. No matter how much our governments for the sake of wider interests try to smooth things over, public opinion is getting every day moe and more aroused about it, both here and in Cyprus.

There is a very small Turkish minority in Cyprus and one of the arguments which our British friends are using is that the poor Turks in Cyprus do not want to belong to Greece. As a matter of fact during the plebiscite organised by the Bishop in Cyprus some time ago, against the will of the British, most of the Turks voted with the Greeks to unite with Greece. Since then there have been in Turkey some demonstrations by students against Cyprus' return to Greece. We are convinced that the origin of this was not purely Turkish. But, however that may be, Cyprus is only a small island, completely Greek, which should never by the stumbling block between us and our British friends and, still less, between us and the Turks.

The Turkish Prime Minister let our officials understand privately that his Government was sympathetically inclined towards us over the Cyprus question and we would find no great difficulties with them in case the Greek Government was forced to take official steps owing to sheer pressure of public opinion. This attitude by the official Turks is of course for us of the greatest importance, not so much in order to push our claims but that Cyprus cannot be used by anybody as a spoke in the wheel of Greek-Turkish friendship. It is a good indication for us of their sincere wish to make this friendship really work, no matter who approves or disapproves of this friendship. We are delighted with this independent attitude.

My husband announced to the President, during one of the last evenings, that he has decided to build a big High-School in Thrace to protect the Turkish language within our frontiers and to raise the educational level of our own Turkish minority. He also said he would give to this school (the first of its kind to be built in modern Greek History) the name of the Turkish President. You can imagine what an effect his announcement had upon the public and the officials alike. It proved to them our sincerety and confidence in them, as well as a completely new psychological attitude towards each other, an attitude based on human understanding and esteem. When eventually we left, there were smiles and tears all around.

I must say this Turkish visit has been to us one of the most extraordinary experiences we have ever had.

Our homecoming was also very satisfactory. We found that our people, completely overcome by the hospitality shown to us by the Turks, showed an enthusiastic and completely united approval of our decision to have gone on this Mission. Even the ground we had lost in some quarters over the last year's Papagos incident has been completely and absolutely rewon. The Country is once again completely united in their approval of the King and Queen.

My husband has also had a chance of talking to the Yugoslav Ambassador in Turkey. He made a special effort of being charming and even followed us from Ankara to Constantinople continuously expressing his interest and sympathy for our Country. He made it very obvious that his Country also wanted to be friends. All this is very good and very helpful, even if it is only an atmosphere. After all that is all we wanted to achieve.

How this atmosphere could be used for greater and better things, that is for wiser people to decide. Let us hope that they will not let one stone unturned to always encourage stronger and firmer ties in the part of the world.

I am sure that Yugoslavia seeing the Greek-Turkish friendship getting stronger will eventually wish to join. Who knows, even the impossible may happen and Tito might wish to visit us. If he was to bring several thousand Greek children, under 15 years old, with him, then I can guarantee him an enthusiastic welcome, but not otherwise. I believe in the human touch and not only in the form of things. Maybe my imagination is running away with me, but it would be a nice picture to see Tito making this gesture and contribution to restore confidence, and again put things on a personal basis.

Firm and good relations between Greece, Turkey and, eventually, Yugoslavia will make any aggressor think twice, and present a first-class springboard into Europe's "soft underbelly".

My husband and I will always do everything we can which might help to strengthen and unify this corner of the world. It sometimes needs a little more coordinated help from those who represent the Great Ones in this world.

My husband's and my ambition, both privately as well as in our official capacity as leaders of our Country, is not to have power over anybody, but to give an atmosphere of peace, stability and sincere human friendship within our Country as well as towards our neighbours. I hope and pray God will continuously help us and that we will not make too many mistakes.

With my very best wishes as ever.

(Signed) FREDERICA

GENERAL G. C. MARSHALL
DODONA MANOR
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

August 1 – 52

Your Majesty:

I was tremendously interested in your detailed account of the visit to Turkey. While the press have very favourable comments it's too bad they could not have had the full flavor of your letter. I have been waiting Achesons' return to have a talk with him and orient myself on the State Department reactions but his immediate depature for Hawaii has made that impossible at this moment.

You were most kind and generous to give me the benefit of your personal description and reaction to a venture of such great importance to the world at this time. I am deeply appreciative.

We leave early to-morrow morning for Santa Barbara, California for the full month of August, visiting the mother and fiancée of Mrs. Marshall's remaining son who died in May. Then we sail from New York on the S.S. "United States" for Havre, France on Sept 5th. I preside at the dedication of the U.S. War Memorials in the military cemeteries abroad, which is scheduled to take place at Suresnes, France on Sept. 13th. After that I turn to inspecting construction of memorials of the U.S. cemeteries in Western Europe and at Carthage, Africa. We sail for Rome from Southampton, England on October 10th. Miss Lee (a great granddaughter of General Robert E. Lee) the young lady I referred to above is going with us.

The heat here has been terrific, almost without precedent and I hope cool Santa Barbara will give us a rest and act as a restorative.

I hope General Ridgway will visit you in Athens. He is a fine fellow and a tremendous fighter. He has been with me a good deal since the days he was a captain in my regiment in China, 18 years ago.

I was much relieved at the outcome of the Republican and Democratic Convention in Chicago. Both candidates are especially fine men. I know them initimately as both have served me, Eisenhower of course with army and Stermson when I headed the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. We could not have found men of higher integrity, selfless spirit of sincere and broader knowledge of the world to-day. It will be, I suppose, an unusually hard campaign and just now there does not seem to be a marked favourite.

I was very glad to read your comments on the existing state of harmonious public opinion in Greece. Remember what I once told you about your qualities when I had the temerity to speak with the interest frankness to a Queen? I have been proven right time and again since that conversation.

With warmest regards from Mrs. Marshall and me to you and His Majesty, and our love to the children.

With great respect, Faithfully yours,

G. C. Marshall

Athens, May 27th, 1953.

Dear General Marshall

I hope these few lines will reach you safely in England. When we heard that you are going to the coronation we felt we must send you many messages and our love to you both. We also thought we would mention the fact that England is not too far away by plane from Greece and that this would be a good time for you and you dear wife to come and visit us before you return home. We would be so happy to see you again and there would be so much to talk about.

Politically things are going here very well and my husband and I are happy about the situation at the moment. Before the last elections Papagos and the other political leaders proclaimed their loyalty and personal "affection" for the King. This brought a former unhappy situation once again into balance and there is now complete harmony.

It is interesting how things can change and how within an unhappy situation there can all the same be so much blessing. The truth is that although we had such difficulties with Papagos at a certain time, these difficulties have not only been overcome, and he himself returned to us as before, but it also helped the leaders of the Left parties (not the communists) to get closer to the King and to feel that they also had a chance to show their affection and feel the King's trust and confidence. This they so far only thought was the privilege of the Royalists. Although politicians will always quarrel between the Crown and the political leaders of all sides as there is now.

My husband and I are happier and also perhaps a little wiser!!

It is interesting to see that the Communists are not fighting Papagos' government so much as they are concentrating in destroying the reorganisation of a Center party. The idea is their hope to inherit the situation. The lack of an effective opposition gives a free hand to the Government, which has its great advantages at the moment but carries with it also dangers for the future. The rebuilding of an opposition which could eventually follow a swing-back from the Papagos government must become the serious concern of those who have to think far ahead.

American policy has linked itself before the elections with the Papagos party, and proved itself successful in that he won the election with a really wonderful majority in Parliament.

The center parties, who have still a great voting power in the country, are showing a disunited front during their regrouping manoeuvres. They are inclined to be bitter towards our American friends, trying to blame their defeat on American intervention for Papagos.

This government has a good chance to stay in power for some time. They are working hard, doing their best, but the economic difficulties are such that only by the most unpopular measures some kind of program can be established. This of course is bound to have its political reactions. The Communists know this and therefore fight the Center parties.

We feel sure that it will not be too difficult for those responsible of American policy for Greece to, in time, re-establish complete harmony with all political leaders. We are very keen to keep American influence in this country not only for the duration of one government but also for generations to come.

Our relations with Turkey are excellent. The Turkish President's visit to us during the winter was also a great success. The school my husband had promised to build for the Turkish minority in Thrace was all ready, standing in all its marble glory. It bears the President's name. We took him there to inaugurate it himself. He was delighted. Our people worked on it night and day so as to finish it in time and give practical proof of our friendship.

Also between Yugoslavia and us things are continuously improving. When my husband was on a two months holiday (the first since 6 years) I had to stay here and according to the Constitution be Regent. In this capacity I had to give a big dinner to the Yugoslav Foreign Minister. I did it with mixed feelings thinking of the past and the thousands of children still missing. Mr. Popowitz is quite pleasant and intelligent. He told me he was a professor of philosophy having studied in France and Germany. He was given orders to first become Chief of Staff in the Army and then suddenly he was given orders to become Foreign Minister. I asked him what he would do if he was given orders suddenly to become a bishop. He laughed but thought it would be not likely to happen. We also talked about philosophy. I expressed my surprise that two people like him and me who come from two different worlds could be interested in the same subject. I asked him who was his favourite philosopher. He promptly answered "Karl Marx". I told him that I was surprised at him, because the Karl Marx's stage I had outgrown when I was in my teens. He told me he was a confirmed Materialist. I told him that ever since the destruction of the Atom, Matter is not what it seems to be, and that perhaps Energy is the real stuff the world is made of, and that the art of living is perhaps the knowledge of how to use this energy best for other people in our thinking, feeling and acting. He insisted that Matter was "energy" and on that we shook hands. He believes only in what he sees. I believe that what I see

is part of what I don't see. This argument of mine went far beyond their own intelligence! Somehow their intelligence can't keep up with their education. What made me quite a good impression was that the man did not mind me teasing him. After all he is a Communist and had to sit next to me at table. At a press conference later he declared he admired the freedom of my spirit." This I thought very funny coming from a Communist.

We are sorry to see Carney leaving the job of Southern Command. We liked him so much and remember that it was thanks to you that he had got it. Carney and wife stayed with us for a few days. Draper and wife also stayed with us to see such a first class man leaving his very important job after he gained the confidence of all European leaders and governments.

The Bidaults were also here a few days ago. I was very favourably impressed with the wife, who seems to be a wise sensible and right-thinking person. Both were in favour of European Defense Council (especially she). He hoped that by September he would be able to overcome the political difficulties that prevented France from ratifying the Treaty so far. In the meantime the Government has fallen. Let us hope the next one will go in for prompt ratification. I think it is Europe's greatest chance. It should not be missed. Both my husband and I made it quite clear to Mr. Bidault that since, in spite of 600 years enmity between Greece and Turkey, we decided to work together for a better future, then France and Germany should also do the same. We asked Bidault straight out "Is it the privilege of the small countries only to be wise, and of the big countries to be stupid?" He made a bit of a poker face, but she was delighted.

De Gaspari has also been here some weeks ago. We were very favourably impressed with him and his wife. I think they are excellent people. Let us pray he will win the elections. Europe needs him in Italy, Adenauer in Germany and Schumann's influence in France.

It seems to me Europe is standing on the crossroad of her own history. The insight of some inspired leaders and the common sense of a great many of the population will either lead us to greater unity and cooperation, or the reactionary nationalistic spirit of small-minded politicians will succeed to turn the wheel of History back again and tear us once more apart. It seems to me at the moment that France holds the key to the situation. Adenauer is an old man but he is fighting a good fight in his own country to lead his people in the right direction. This is France's and Germany's chance and with it the chance of the whole of Europe. May it not be missed like it was missed after the first World War.

Mr. Dulles and Mr. Stassen will be arriving tomorrow in Athens. We are very happy to make their acquaintance.

Once more my best love to your wife and hoping to see you back soon with us, I send you my best wishes.

As ever in all friendship

(Signed) FR

GROSVENOR HOUSE,
PARK LANE,
LONDON, W.I.

June 9 – 53

Your Majesty:

I was delighted to receive your letter here in London with its detailed account of things political in Greece. You gave a very clear picture and I am relieved to learn that all seems to go well, particularly regarding Papagos. I had been somewhat involved.

Your decision regarding Turkey has proved to be a brilliant one and I think it will work out better and better.

We have been somewhat overwhelmed by the Coronation Ceremonies and festivities. We leave to-morrow sailing home from Southampton. Your gracious invitation was very tempting and flattering but Mrs. Marshall's state of health (a back injury from a fall) could not permit of much travel. She asks me to thank you and express her – and my deep regrets.

I imagine that this will represent about my last formal public service. I rather hope so, though I feel fine physically.

Last fall when we were in Italy and Africa – and especially eight delightful days on Capri, we read in the press that you were in Switzerland with one of the children. I hope it was a matter of schools and not of health.

With my respects and warm regards to His Majesty and (taking the liberty) my admiring and affectionate regards to you.

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd) G. C. Marshall

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL
LISCOMBE LODGE
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

December 19 – 53

Your Majesty:

I have just returned from Europe. Spent all my time in bed there, except at Oslo. Got up for dinner but did not go out. This virus flu is devastatingly persistent. Mrs. Marshall and the doctors opposed my going abroad, but I thought the eight day cruise by the Southern route would expedite my convalescence, but it was too strong.

I had flirted with the idea that I might see you in New York just before you sailed but I sailed before you did.

Now, I wish to make clear how very much I appreciated the great and gracious attention you gave me by your call at the Waltor Reed Hospital. I will never forget it. Its memory will ... my thoughts through the years. The Queen none ever been so gracious, and, with your permission, none so lovely.

Mrs. Marshall is deep in Xmas packaging. Too much effort as a matter of fact. She has done up and mailed or expressed 75 to States, not to mention local business, grandchildren, etc. I am worthless as a ... mate.

This note carries our Xmas and New Year's messages to you and the King, and Mrs. Marshall's love to the children.

With great respect and admiration and with affection,

Faithfully
(Signed) G. C. Marshall

Athens, August 19th, 1954

Dear General Marshall,

With all my heart I thank you and your wife for the beautiful plates you sent me. Your present came as a complete surprise and your thought touched me deeply. What a wonderful idea to have your house reproduced on these plates. It looks a beautiful place and I hope I will be able to see it myself one day.

It has been a long time since I have written to you and there will be quite a lot to talk about to-day. My husband and I cannot help wishing sometimes that you would once again take an active part in world affairs.

In Europe we certainly have reached a very critical moment. France seems to be busily wrecking all that America has so far-sightedly and generously been working for. One can only hope and pray that the United States will not lose patience with us here in Europe, especially with those who have understood American policy and are in full support trying to achieve European Unity, knowing it to be the only guarantee for peace, as well as for economic and political stability. It seems strange that three countries with such different regimes as Greece a Kingdom, Turkey a republic and Yugoslavia a Communist Dictatorship, should have found enough wisdom and maturity to unite and forget old differences. (And what differences they were!!!) But as my husband mentioned in his speeches again and again in the States we are determined to make our part of the world one of the stablest in Europe. The Balkan pact signed a few days ago presents Europe and our Ameican friends with enough armed forces, which if kept fully equipped with all modern weapons as well as with the necessary financial help can easily become a new axis upon which a European army can be formed, should the other idea eventually fail which I hope it will not.

These days the future of E.D.G. will be discussed and decided upon in Brussels. Writing to you of course the outcome is not yet known to us. Should France succeed in wrecking the plan, then it seems that American support should concentrate upon Germany, the Balkans, the Middle-East and Spain. A strong defensive belt might thus be achieved which would militarily have the same value but of course lack the political harmony which close cooperation between France and Germany would have guaranteed.

We had the official visit of Mr. Adenauer early this year. He made a first class impression upon us. He is wise, patient, far-sighted and absolutely right-thinking. I told him that Americans liked him because of his patience with France and that therefore he was worthy of such confidence. I think that he is perhaps the only statesman Europe has got today. May the French not miss this chance to bury old differences and suspicions as long as a man like Adenauer has a say in Germany. The French should take an example from Greece, but then the trouble is they suffer from an inferiority complex and we don't.

You will have followed most probably that we have our own difficulties with our old friend and ally, the English. The Cyprus question has become very acute. I enclose a letter which I wrote early this year to Mr. Churchill. By the answer you will see that I failed in my attempt to avoid mischief. A wave of fanatic anti-British feeling is now sweeping our country. It is all the more tragic as Greece always had a genuine love for the British. The trouble started last year through a first class gaffe made by Mr. Eden, when he was recuperating in Greece after his operation. During a private and informal conversation between him and the Prime-Minister he made a rude and categorical announcement to our Prime Minister that the Cyprus question would never be even discussed. Our Prime Minister, being as you know a proud Field-Marshall who has after all led the Greek troops at the side of the British to the first victories against the Axis, reacted equally strongly. I cannot understand how

Eden could have been so tactless. His remarks became public, and their effect was made increasingly unfortunate through equally categorical declarations by the British Government in Parliament. During this last year feelings have been rising in Cyprus and Greece, until now they have reached boiling point. There has never been a question of the British losing any basis in Cyprus. We don't want them to leave like Egypt and other countries do. As a matter of fact they can have as many bases as they like on the mainland and on any of our islands. All the Cypriots want is to unite with Greece as have the Ionian Islands Crete and the Dodecanese. It is natural that they refuse to remain "colonials" considering they are Europeans and Greece such a proven and friendly ally of England. As things are getting from bad to worse the British have made what I consider another gaffe. The Minister for the Colonies, Mr. Littleton announced in Parliament that Cyprus could never be given any independence nor unite with Greece as, although Greece was a friendly nation, it was far too unstable to be relied upon, or words to that effect.

The worse gaffe of all is that lately they offered a new constitution to the Cypriots which is far worse and less democratic than any offered and rejected in the past. Under this new constitution the majority of the people's representatives are to be appointed by the Governor, while the minority can be voted for by the public. As a result of this a storm of resentment has arisen in Cyprus as well as in Greece.

Immediately after the new terms of the Constitution were made known a severe sedition law had to be introduced in Cyprus making it illegal to criticise the new Constitution or to write about union with Greece. Five years in prison as well as exile is the penalty for those who reprint speeches made in the British Parliament or articles written by Englishmen in England criticising the British policy. In all fairness to the British I must say that the British Press as well as many important Englishmen are strongly criticising their own policy in Cyprus. Of course things will get worse. The next thing we shall have are imprisonments and exiles as neither the Church nor the people of Cyprus will give up the fight. After all they feel it is now their turn to follow the example of Greece proper and succeed in getting their freedom from a foreign rule.

All this trouble could have been avoided so easily as all we asked for was the possibility just to discuss with England the possible evolution of a satisfactory solution of the Cyprus question for both our countries.

This would have needed no fixed time or dates, only it would have meant the possibility of freedom sometime in the future. This would have avoided all the acuteness as well as bitterness and all it would have needed was just a little goodwill and statesmanship.

But now the Greek Government forced by a united public opinion is bringing the question before the U.N.O. where it will have to take its course. This of course we had all hoped to avoid.

An interesting experience for us has been the official State visit to us by Marshall Tito. The four days that he stayed with us were a slow evolution from

reserved politness towards a more and more human friendliness. You should have seen the first luncheon party at our house. It started in complete silence with Court officials looking at Communists and Communists looking at the King and Queen. It was my fate twice a day to have Tito sit next to me. He was all the time carefully watching my husband across the table and as my husband has a very contagious laugh Tito began first to smile, then slowly to grin and eventually roar with laughter. Lacking in conversation during the first meal he asked me if I liked horses. When I told him that I thought they were dangerous in front, dangerous behind and uncomfortable in the middle he choked and could hardly go on eating. He was very impressed by our army and a first class parade that was organised for him in Saloniki. As a matter of fact since then he immediately adopted and has put in effect for his own army some of our ways of organising things. Of course security was terrific. Never have there been so many policemen in the streets as during his visit. He himself insisted in driving about in his own armoured car with our palace driver driving him and his own bodyguard sitting next to the driver with my husband always at his side. Whenever we were alone we asked him all the most tactless questions we could think of, trying to find out how a Communist thinks and feels. My husband asked him straight out if he were still a Communist. He said no, he was a socialist and his country was a socialist state. He described to us his life in Russia and that he hated Stalin from the first moment he saw him. He said he was rude and thoroughly evil. We asked him why he broke away from Russia. He explained that with the growing resistance movement grew his own sense of responsiblity toward his country, and that when he saw that Stalin wanted to make him into a pupet he knew he had to break away in order to keep his and his country's "Freedom". Talking about his private life he confided to me that he couldn't get on with his oldest son because, as he said, he was such an awful anarchist and rebel. So I told him that I thought he must have inherited it from his father! At first he was a bit doubtful how I meant it but then laughed and he was very pleased. He travelled with my husband to Saliniki and on the way the new ties of friendship were further and further developed. In the end he kept on shaking my husband's hand again and again and inviting him to come officially and unofficially to Yugoslavia any time that would suit him.

I think that his visit was a great success no matter what one's personal feelings were. They don't count anyhow. He is happy with us and we certainly will not give him any reason to doubt us. Incidentally I had the impression that he would love to go to the States. As a matter of fact the Foreign Minister, Popovitch, my old friend "from last year" asked if I couldn't be indirectly helpful in that direction. I wonder if the American People are already ready for such a visit. If so, then it can only be helpful. Of course nothing must go wrong from a psychological point of view because, as we all know, Field-Marshalls are to be treated differently from us ordinary mortals.

Quite a different kind of a visit has been lately the visit of the Emperor of Ethiopia. He arrived during the hottest days of our summer, Athens, 102 degrees, and all of us four days dressed in our very best. It was a frightful ordeal for them and for

us. But apparently very good for our respective countries. The Emperor is a very civilised and intelligent man. I am sure he is a great man in his own Country. It was interesting to talk to him about the plans and schemes he has for Ethiopia. As for his son, the conversation was slightly more out of the ordinary. I was quite surprised about his insistance at table to describe to me the life and evolution of a tape worm with which everyone seems to be living on very friendly terms in his country! My young son who listened into the conversation could only be controlled by furious glances from me.

Since then we had a very nice holiday with the whole family on a small island two hours from Athens. Now we are off to Naples to collect about a hundred members of our very large European family for a sightseeing cruise around the Greek islands. My husband and I thought of this idea because we meet Family only at funerals and after all one can't laugh at funerals. We wanted our children to meet the young generation, such as the Young King of Bulgaria who is 17 years old, the Crown Prince of Italy, Spain, France, Holland and the German Royal Families. One never knows what the future has in store for all of them and if they have met as friends ever since they were children, they and their countries can only profit from it. We and their parents will renew old ties that had been interfered with by the war, and through an informal happy family atmosphere bring a little bit of happiness to some who had to suffer bitterly.

Please write to me again whenever you feel like it as I myself enjoy writing long books to you.

With my love to your wife as well as to yourself, and best regards from my husband to both of you.

(Signed) F.R.

GENERAL G. C. MARSHALL
DODONA MANOR
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA

September 16 – 54

Your Majesty:

I was delighted to receive your letter thanking us for the plates. Incidentally, we did not have them made. This was the work of a gift shop in the village, ... a dozen years ago. I never saw them until the other day and immediately secured those for you, all they had at one time – as I had been on the look out for something personal, in effect.

Your comments on the political aspects of things European were intensily interesting particularly as to Cyprus, but I was much amused by your comment re Field Marshall, though you were taking a crack at me as I have equivalent rank and once was Secretary of State.

Things are in a critical state here at home with an extremely tight election coming on November 2nd which will determine the contest of Congress and particularly the Foreign Reactions machinery in the Senate. At the same time there exist the deadly serious issues in the Far East. You have had to face a turbulent, world all of your mature life, and permit me to say, magnificently. Unfortunately the tense situation increases and does not moderate. It will require on our part determination or resolution, patience and great wisdom.

I wish I could see you and the King and have a talk with you, though I am completely out of the political situation here at home, International or National.

We leave for Pinehurst, N.C our winter home, October 15th not to return here until about May 1st.

With great respect to you and His Majesty, and I take the liberty of saying, with affection –

(signed) G. C. Marshall

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

January 18, 1955

Your Majesty:

I have wanted to send you and The King my very personal Christmas greetings and, especially, I wanted to thank you for the very lovely Christmas card, but, to put it very frankly, I thought it better to delay until the anti-American disturbance had somewhat subsided. You wrote me the intimate details of the Cyprus situation, so I was at all surprised by the reaction which followed our United Nations position.

I am well, but poor Mrs. Marshall is having a prolonged struggle with shingles in her right eye, arm and hand – now an affliction of three months duration. She is slowly recovering, but has decided "ups and downs".

Mrs. Marshall's married daughter left for Japan early in November with her two daughters – six and eleven. She left her thirteen-year-old boy with us for the winter, and I am seriously engaged in coaching him in spelling and English. As I am a

famous illiterate in spelling, I am "some" teacher, but he is so bad that I am the proverbial "one-eyed man in the Kingdom of the Blind".

I was much interested in what you told me of your proposed cruise with the relations you only saw at funerals – and with the resulting magazine and press reports. Apparently it was a great success.

We are at Pinehurst for the winter and early spring. We return to Leesburg May 1, as usual.

I sincerely trust that your reported operations were successful and not too painful. Please believe that I had you frequently in mind.

With warm and respectfully regards to His Majesty, and with admiration and affection to you.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) G. C. Marshall

(Marshall archives has handwritten draft of this letter and a typed copy of what was sent (without his handwritten addition)

Pinehurst, N.C. February 14, 1955

Your Majesty:

I am taking a great liberty in asking a favour of you which may be quite contrary to protocol and a serious inconvenience to you.

The daughter of dear friend of mine (an old gentleman of 86 years, a distinguished retired general of the Army) is arriving in Athens on the morning of Monday, February 28, with her husband on the Cruise ship "Oslofford" and leaving that evening. She prays the distinguished opportunity of being received by you for a moment, and I forward.

Mrs. George H. Rockwell and husband. Her father is General John McAnly Palmet.

I have written our Ambassador telling him of my request. Please do not allow any kindly consideration of me cause you inconvenience or action not in keeping with custom or protocol.

With respectful and warm regards to His Majesty and always with admiration and deep affection for you.

(sgd) G. C. Marshall

Athens, March 14th, 1955

Dear General Marshall,

Thank you very much for your two last letters and also for the one received in Autumn which made me laugh very much when you said that you also held the rank of Field-Marshal. I think you must belong to the very rare examples when a Field-Marshal can remain an ordinary mortal!!

I am so sorry to hear that your dear wife has still got trouble with her eyes. It made me wish she would have a chance to go to the Hospital in Zurich, where I have been. They have the best specialists in the world there and a first class eye specialist. It is too bad that she should suffer so much.

I have been in and out of hospital these last three months My left ear was going deaf and so I had the famous Fenestration operation performed. The result is remarkable. The first operation takes 1½ hour. They cut open the skull behind the ear and dug a new channel through the bone. Then it has to heal and after two months the second operation is performed which immediately brings back the hearing. It is quite satisfying to know that it takes them 1½ hours to dig through my skull – I did not know I had such a thick one! The doctor is excellent. I played a rather nasty trick on him. When I returned for the second operation I walked into his office holding my ear and told him that something had gone wrong. He looked at me with his eyes popping out of his head with concern and asked to have a look. I withdrew my hand and exposed an enormous false ear that I had stuck on. You should have seen the momentary horror in the poor man's face until he collapsed with laughter. He really must have thought that the first operation had produced elephantiasis. His attitude changed from that of an impersonal scientist into a charming and cheerful human being, which made me feel much more comfortable. The joke was carried slightly too far but completely without my knowledge as I was still unconsious, when immediately after the operation he tried to test the hearing of my ear. He called my name and said: "How is the ear?" I answered immediately and said: "It is alright, it is lying on the dressing table." He left the room and came back only in the evening when I was fully conscious.

In the States this operation is done in one go which has the disagreeable manifestations of terrible giddiness for three weeks, and a greater danger of infection. I must say I suffered hardly at all.

There is, thank God, no anti-American feeling in Greece. The manifestations in the street were a momentary outburst of terrible disappointment. My husband spoke over the radio and put things into their proper perspective. In the meantime the British remain as stubborn as usual and the Cypriots as patriotic as ever. You see, they have before them the example in history of the Greek struggle against the Turks, the Cypriots feel that now it is their turn to follow this example, and they will never let go. I wonder if for the sake of prestige it is more comfortable for the British to have their military base amongst a hostile population rather than amongst loyal and devoted friends.

Our family excursion was a tremendous success and great fun. We were 108 members of one family which included 20 nationalities and 15 languages. We mostly spoke English. There was not one difficult or unpleasant moment. Everybody was happy and carefree and many lifelong friendships have been made, such for instance as my son and the young King of Bulgaria who himself is only 17 years old. There had been a blessing upon this trip. It proves to me once more that the human heart could succeed where politicans and politics fail. Queen Juliana was as happy as a child. It was a joy to watch her.

My husband and I have received your friends and found them very charming. I sent them a telegram directly to the ship without Court or Embassy protocol!! Please do not hesitate to recommend any of your friends that may be visiting Greece.

From an inner political point of view we are enjoying an abnormally normal political life! There has not been any normal excitement for a long time. But my husband and I are always ready for anything. I must say I love my country and people every year more. They are so very human, so ready to love, to hate and always to forgive and to forget and to try again, whenever something has gone wrong for them.

In Autumn we are supposed to make an official visit to Yugoslavia. That is going to be something! I am already looking forward to writing you all about it.

Please give my love to your dear wife, may she soon recover her health. Perhaps a holiday in Greece would do her good!

My husband sends best wishes and I send my love to you both.

Ever Yours,
(Signed) FR

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL
LISCOMBE LODGE
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

April 13 – 55

Your Majesty:

Your delightful letter gave me great pleasure and more than a little amusement. It was very, very good of you to give us so much of your time and effort.

Also, I am deeply indebted to His Majesty and you for your special kindness to my friend Mary (I have forgotten her married name and my records are in Washington.) You were not only unusually gracious but you went far out of your way to give them extreme pleasure. Mary's letter to me was ecstatic and judging from the

other ships' mail I received the entire passenger list was enthused and charmed with your kindness.

Politics and war recriminations fill the air and press here. It's the way of democracy in the head up to a Presidential campaign, but it does grow tiresome.

While Pinehurst is more or less the center of the U.S. golf world (there are four 18 hole courses and one 9 hole course at the club three blocks from our cottage) it is really a secluded village, but the long distance phone disturbs our calm life many times a day – 5 times from New York this morning and twice from Washington.

I am giving you a lot of trivialities when there is so much I would like to talk over with you.

It was a relief to learn of the successful operation on your ear. But you are too young to have to endure such a thing. Apparently His Majesty enjoys sturdy good health. That is a blessing for Greece.

Again with my admiration and affection,

Faithfully yours,
(signed) G. C. Marshall

Athens, October 13th, 1955

Dear General Marshall,

I hope you didn't think I forgot my promise to write to you after our return from Yugoslavia. But when we returned we found a very unhappy situation in Greece, not only from an internal but especially from an external point of view.

Internally since months we were moving into a crisis. Owing to Papagos' prolonged illness and refusal to either work or give up, the situation was rapidly deteriorating, with the leftist elements taking political advantage, trying to organize themselves, while the nationalist element remained paralysed and frustrated. There was a lack of decisions both in internal and external politics. There was no one to take responsability and any responsability that had to be faced was continuously being pushed on the shoulders of a very sick man who was himself unable to take any action.

We knew that something had to be done soon, but it was difficult to take any action, especially if one is a Constitutional King and has as Prime Minister a very proud and very strong-headed hero of two wars.

I think that it is well known that owing to personal clash between Papagos and Eden the Cyprus question became more and more acute. Cyprus dominates today the

heart, the soul and the brain of every Greek. The Three-Power conference in London ended in a complete disaster, owing to the fanatic Turkish attitude which was perhaps not too disagreeable to the British. Then came the Turkish riots in Constantinople and Smyrna. The effect was tremendous in Greece, much much greater than any American can possibly imagine. Some 60 churches were detroyed and the Church is something which is very close to every Greek's heart. This more than the millions of dollars worth of damage done to Greek property has broken Greek-Turkish friendship, well and good. It will take a long, long time for mutual confidence to be re-established because, as I have said to you before, our people are a highly emotional people.

Owing to this emotionalism you can imagine what a disastrous effect the anti-Greek vote at U.N.O. by all the Atlantic Powers had on the Greek people. We feel as if the Western World has given us a hard and undeserved kick and there is desperate bitterness in my country today, not only against the British but unfortunately this time also against the Americans. The Greek people feel (and I tell you this quite honestly, as I have always been honest in the expression of my feelings to you) that America, the country to whom we looked as giving moral leadership to the world, has for God knows what material and political reasons betrayed her own ideals.

Great bitterness has been felt also that no official word of sympathy for horrors done to Greeks and the desecration of churches came from our Western Christian friends. What put still more oil into the fire was a message coming from Mr. Dulles that was addressed to the Greek and Turkish Governments alike, urging both to quickly make up and kiss each other, as otherwise American dollars would have gone to waste, or words to this effect dressed in more diplomatic language. This our people took as an insult coming at a moment of deep national mourning. It was like adding insult to injury like treating criminal and victim alike.

The Greeks' opinion on the Western World, the meaning of their ideals and fine words has reached rock bottom in Greece. It just couldn't be worse. It has only one good thing that now it can only get better because, I repeat, it just cannot get worse.

This is the atmosphere that my husband and I found when we returned from Yugoslavia. There were no demonstrations this time in the streets, but the atmosphere is anti-N.A.T.O., anti-western and pro-neutralism. You can imagine what a wonderful chance this is for the "new look" of an old Russian policy.

The Leftists have the most wonderful arguments today which they use to the utmost. Russia and the satellites, in modern language the "neutralists", have voted for Greece on the Cypriot question. The Western World has forsaken Greece officially. So the question is being very cleverly put: "Who stands up for freedom and the self-determination of people"? Russia!! "And who is bartering freedom for materialistic purposes"? Our Western friends!! So let's all go in for Neutralism. And there is a rush for all political leaders as to who can loudest proclaim his neutralist beliefs. The moment an American would say: But look what we have done for you, the answer is:- That is all right, we have also shown ourselves and that is a matter of the past. It is now that you have failed in keeping the ideals for which we have all fought.

I assure you that once again my husband and I have been sitting in a mad-house. It was impossible to have any logical conversation on any subject with anyone. So we kept rather to ourselves and said to ourselves, "What now?"

My husband decided the first thing to do is to get a responsible Prime Minister. Papagos lay desperately ill but still surrounded by mystical glory in his home outside Athens. No personal contact was possible since months. Nobody knew, not even my husband, what really was wrong with him, as he was surrounded by a wall of devotees who every now and then gave out a communique that he was following every incident of Greek political life personally, and that he was well on the way to recovery.

We had two vice-presidents, but neither the one nor the other had direct responsability. My husband sent for them and told them that they had to go to the Prime Minister and ask him for a solution of unsatisfactory governmental situation. They came back telling my husband that the Prime Minister was much better and that everything should be left as it was. I will not repeat what my husband told them, but it wasn't very nice. Then my husband decided to write a letter to the Prime Minister in which he told him that being a Constitutional King he is in great need of his one and only constitutional adviser, the Prime Minister, that he cannot shoulder responsabilities which according to the Constitution are not his, or words to that effect, and that therefore he needs an immediate solution. After one or two days the answer was that he would appoint the foreign Minister as his official representative. This of course was again a most unsatisfactory solution as it did not solve the problem of advice and responsability. But my husband accepted it as the solution was given by his one and only constitutional adviser. When the Prime Minister's decision was made known that evening the government started to disintegrate owing to rival jealousies. And we were going into complete chaos. Then god intervened.... That night Papagos died.

Within a few hours my husband appointed a young self-made man from Macedonia Prime Minister of Greece. In order to help him along he gave him also the right to dissolve Parliament should he fail to get a vote of confidence.

Mr. Karamanlis, the present Prime Minister, was an extremely successful minister in the Papagos Government. The effect on the country was like champagne. Within seven hours a new government was formed, sworn in and Parliament recalled. In the meantime there was a terrible struggle going on by some ambitious members of the majority party to have the King's decision reversed by a vote of non-confidence.

The result of the vote in Parliament was 200 for Karamanlis, 77 against, which came as a complete justification of the King's action and was the result of tremendous pressure of public opinion on the members of Parliament. Since then we slept soundly again at night, a thing we had lost lately and especially in the last few days.

Karamanlis is a man who says what he thinks. He is very direct in all his actions. He will take the responsability of of his own actions as well as of his own mistakes.

The Army is extremely pleased with the solution and my husband also asked the Prime Minister to keep the Ministry of National Defense for himself.

For the next month no great harm can be done in our Country as the nationalist element has a new man to look up to and rally around. We hope our people will follow that line when elections take place next spring. But my goodness, some effort on behalf of our American friends must be done. I cannot think what it should be but the present Prime Minister must be strengthened in his efforts to re-establish the Greek people's confidence in the West. We have only a few months time. The other side has temporarily received a blow through the King's appointment of the new young Prime Minister. But their anti-Western and pro-neutralistic slogans can yet be offset by a positive pro-Greek policy on behalf of the Americans. Understanding on the Cyprus question must be shown publicly, no matter what it costs, and preference over Turkey should also be made known. We need to be petted at this moment because we have been hurt deep in our soul, in our idealism and in our faith.

I have told you once before that my husband and I are deeply conscious of our Country's responsabilities towards the ideals of the Western World. We shall always, and no matter whatever happens, stick to them and try and lead our country always towards that direction.

Now we need help. Not so much materialistically as idealistically, and that help must come from America.

Now about our visit to Yugoslavia. It certainly was an experience. You can't imagine what I felt when the train stopped at the last Greek frontier village. The villagers stood silently around the train, as if they were saying: "My God, where are you going?" And I myself felt like crying. Then slowly the train moved across the border and into the first Yugoslav village. Yugoslav and Greek flags, as well as the red banner, saluted our entry. Again silent crowds around the train but much further away this time than before. In my imagination I felt the people were saying: "My goodness, what are you doing here?" After an exchange of National Anthems, guards of honour, etc., Government representatives received us and we proceeded to Belgrade.

The reception they gave us was terrific. It looked as if people were pleased to see us. Maybe it was a change from their everyday drudgery. We lived in the former King's Palace. I looked around the room to find signs of the old days but the furniture and the pictures were all new, except for an old, thick, fat perfume bottle with silver top that was pushed into a corner of the washstand and which I recognised as only being possible to have belonged to the Royal Family.

The kitchen was two kilometers away from the house. It provided food for our party, for Tito's household and for all the Government and the Government employees It seems to be a public soup kitchen where caviar, champagne and other delicacies were being dished out. Our impression of the present Yugoslav rulers are that they are extremely proud of not being either under Western or Eastern influence.

As the present rulers are not burdened by any responsabilities towards the past and consider themselves as the only future, their attitude is either we shall succeed in our interior and external policy or if we fail we can always go back into the mountains. This gives their actions and thinkings freedom from any moral obligations. They will accept help from either side as long as no strings are attached to it, and they say so quite openly. Theirs is a real neutralistic policy and they are proud of it.

Tito has taken a personal liking to my husband and seemed to be happy and relaxed in his presence. Maybe he felt that there was for once somebody who had a decent outlook in life, had killed no one, does not want to kill anybody, and has no ulterior wicked political motives. He and his wife travelled with us right through the country. Wherever we went we found two palaces, one for Tito and his party and one for us. There were horses, carriages, motor cars, private zoos, as well as out-of-door and inside heated swimming pools. There were private beaches, islands that had been deserts but which, owing to special fresh water carried across from the mainland, had been turned into flowering paradises. I even found an elephant walking around one of the many gardens. Thanks goodness, it was only a baby! There were motor-boats and yachts, all very pleasant and luxurious. By the end of the trip I felt I had been thoroughly brain washed and said to myself how wonderful it must be to be a Communist!!!

Conversation between my husband and Tito was very easy. They travelled together through the country in a car, so they discussed everything under the sun. Conversation between me and his wife was very difficult as she couldn't speak a word of any language, so we only made friendly noises at each other, which were so successful that when eventually we said good-bye to each other she fell around my neck and kissed me tenderly good-bye to the utter horror of those who surrounded us as well as of our children who came to fetch us from Dubrovnik.

Tito asked my husband if he could spend a private visit with us and his wife, purely for the sake of having a rest, as he cannot rest in his own country. So we tentatively fixed the beginning of June to have him stay with us in Corfu.

This a strange world!!! I still have to laugh when at a very official meal, where everybody was dressed their very best, I asked the gentlemen next to me and across the table where they had first met Mr. Tito. The answer was: "In prison." All of them who were today dressed in tail coats and decorations had been condemned in the past to long terms of hard labor or like. I was wondering what would happen if I gave a party in Athens and asked those people who were in prison in Athens, condemned to hard labor and life, to join my husband and me for a cosy meal!

All together the visit has been a success. Tito was very insistent about his faith in an alliance with Greece, such as the Balkan Pact, although this pact has been badly shaken by the Turks. I firmly believe that American policy should be a strengthening, psychologically and materially, of the Greek position. Greece is the open door for Tito with the West, which should remain strength-giving to him in his dealings with

the Russians. Should, owing to a weakening of the Greek position by Greece going towards neutralism, this not be any more a tempting link for him with the West, then Tito's position is also weakened in his rather independent stand towards the East. I therefore insist, as I have done so often, that Greece rather than any other country should be the bastion and the pillar of American foreign policy in the Balkans, the Near and the Middle East. It shoud not be lost by sheer bungling and lack of foresight and psychology.

The Greeks have always been true to their friends and have never failed them even when these friends were in such great difficulties that no material gain could come to our people from them. Something must happen on behalf of America for our people to regain faith, because it is only faith and not through cold calculation that our people will want to stick with the West. And it is the faith that has been shattered.

My husband and I are leaving for a month's holiday abroad. Until the elections in Spring the interior political situation seems stabilised. We hope and pray that the elections will then become a new victory for the West, but that the West may also make it worth while.

Dear General Marshall, you are the only man in the world today to whom I write my thoughts so openly. I know that with you they are safe and that you accept them with deep understanding.

My best love to you and your wife.

As ever

Frederica R.

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

Pinehurst, North Carolina
December 16, 1955

Your Majesty:

I was surprised and much complimented to receive your lengthy personal discussion of the situation in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey and the serious reactions resulting. I was also much distressed to learn of the reactions of the Greek people with regard to the United States, though probably the Turkish reactions are of much more serious consequence. You were very good to have written to me, and I deeply appreciate your doing so.

Since receiving your letter, I have been scratching my head trying to decide just how I can be of help without violating your confidence, and also without inflaming Dulles who you tell me has not been too friendly on his part. You may be sure that a point of view here officially will receive my earnest consideration.

Mrs. Marshall and I came south early this year, and suddenly, because of her sister's serious condition. She, the sister, suffered several strokes last March. We got her accepted at the famous Warm Springs Sanitorium in Georgia that Mr. Roosevelt built. When they found they could do nothing for her, we had to vacate her room in a week and had her moved to a convalescent home here, and had to hurry south to meet her train. The strain of spending most of her mornings daily at the hospital, or home, has been very exhausting for Mrs. Marshall. Incidentally, she is there now as I am writing.

We had an unusually hot summer but escaped to a cottage in the Pennsylvania mountains in August.

Mrs. Marshall's daughter, with her Army Colonel husband and three children, are due here today, he returning from Korea and all of them from Japan. Much excitement, of course.

I, as usual am lazy and good for nothing, declining about two invitations a day to speak somewhere in the United States or write or check statements. Each foreign complication sets my telephone ringing by the press.

I pray that you and your family will have a happy Christmas, and I always pray a little for you personally, for my affectionate admiration is constant.

With my most respectful regards to His Majesty, and with greater respect,

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty
Queen of the Hellenes
Athens, Grece

The endorsed kodak is my most recent picture!

Athens, February 29th, 1956

Dear General Marshall,

We have just passed the most difficult time since my husband's coming to the throne. We went to the brink of the abyss, looked into it, got frightfully giddy and turned away at the last moment.

These were the most nerve-wrecking elections that Greece has ever gone through. The issue was either a Communist controlled neutralism or a continuation of our traditional pro-Western policy.

You will remember from my last letter what had produced the sudden pro-neutralism in Greece. It was Greece's feeling of having been completely abandoned by her Western Allies over the Cyprus question, as well as the lack of Western understanding after the Turkish atrocities in Constantinople and Smyrna. There was also internally the normal reaction against Papagos' Government, that owing to his long illness had become ineffective and stagnant. The leftist element was gaining rapidly, fanning the anti-western propaganda against which there were very few plausible arguments that the enraged public would have accepted.

The young man whom my husband picked to become Prime Minister after Papagos' death concentrated against him the jealousies of the political world. This was cleverly used by Russia through the small Communist minority party in Greece, and for the first time in Europe a Popular Front was formed which made Nationalist parties, such as led by Venizelos, Papandreou, Markesine and Tsaldaris, join with the Communist Party within a political block. The unholy alliance went into elections against Karamanlis with the, by now, very popular pro-neutralist slogan. Never has our country been in such a danger since Communism was beaten on the battlefield. It is a strange thing that our people rather than take insult are ready to tear down their own house over their own heads.

Karamanlis never had been leader of a party before but he had been a very successful Minister of Reconstruction within the Papagos Government, and had proved himself capable in other ministerial posts throughout the last ten years. He is the son of a Macedonian peasant and is completely uncorruptable, honest, straightforward and a first class fighter. The odds against him were very heavy but he fought and he won, and with him the Western World won a great victory against Russia's new experiment to win politically luring dissatisfied Nationalist leaders into dangerous cooperation.

I can assure you that this time I nearly lost my sense of humour (since then it has come back again). My husband and I knew too well what the issues were, and into what disaster our people might have freely and unthinkingly voted themselves. But they didn't. And now Karamanlis has an overall majority of 26 votes in Parliament. It is a small majority but he is a strong man and we have faith he will carry it well and successfully.

Being a soldier, General Marshall, you will understand that when a battle has been won the position must immediately be consolidated and strengthened. America must not miss this chance. We need help to the utmost:-

1. Psychologically over the Cyprus problem.

2. Full out financial support in order not to make our Prime Minister fail from an economic point of view. He must be a success by achieving reforms that will help the workman and the peasant. He will do it if he has the means.

3. Our Navy must be strengthened and build up again. To my husband's utter despair, no support has been given to our Navy for years, and we are left with two American destroyers and a few out of date supporting vessels! If ever there is to be a mobilisation there would be no possibility of transporting troops by sea with any supporting protection. You can understand how exasperating this is for us since we only have one railway line that goes from the South to the North and which, once the bridges are down, will be immediately rendered useless. We have the experience of how things had been done during the last war. Most of the mobilisation was done by ship. We need destroyers, submarines and motor-torpedo boats. Most probably all the experts will stand on their heads if you were to tell them this. They will talk about commitments within N.A.T.O., ask for reports, suggestions, make counter-proposals, promise perhaps 1/2 a ship within 6 months and, in the end, all that will have been done will be a lot of writing, proposals and counter-proposals with things remaining the same as they were.

We want a courageous action now on behalf of America towards Greece. To my mind it would pay off brilliantly, but time is very short. The opposition is waiting to prove that Karamanlis is a failure and that by standing up for the Western World and swinging the people with him, the people have been led astray. The reaction to a failure of his will bring back Russian policy triumphantly, which we have just managed to avoid.

My husband and I feel so strongly that America must now come full out in support of Greece that we think it might be helpful if I went to the States privately in order to meet the right people and talk to them privately and unofficially. I, therefore, would like to ask you a favour. Could you and your wife ask me to come and stay with you as your private guest? And could you then help me to meet, in the seclusion of your own home, as individuals those people that would be responsible for giving military, naval any financial aid to Greece?

We have a desperate feeling that in the vast offices of the State Department and the Pentagon the problems of Greece must seem so very small. We consider ourselves a very valuable outport of the Western world against the Soviet world. We also have the impatience within our soul which you, yourself, must know so well. It is an impatience which the fighting soldier feels in the front line when he thinks of the man at the desk, who shapes the policies. I want to meet the man at the desk, whoever he is, and give him the feel of the Greek struggle which, after all, is a struggle of light against darkness.

I know that I am taking tremendous advantage of our friendship. The issues at stake, however, are so great that all hesitation to ask for your help have been overruled. You would ask me to come and stay with you. All that would be known is that I have accepted a personal invitation from you and your wife. No official receptions would be accepted by me, for any reasons, except my private visit to you, will be made public. I would take with me only my lady-in-waiting and my maid, nobody else.

I am free the whole month of April. The best thing would be that the press does not get to hear anything about it until I have arrived, and then we shall say that I have always wanted to go to the States on a private visit and that you have given me the chance. That I have come for a rest and therefore will be of no further interest to the Press, nor be available for any official or unofficial entertainment, or any other such public dangers.

We must get definite results from America during these coming months so that by autumn Karamanlis will have fully stabilized his position and proved to our people that his pro-Western policy was correct. America must win in Greece again now or else there is fear Greece may be lost forever. If she misses this chance, not only will we lose a first-class Prime Minister, but also a first-class pro-Western Prime Minister. Also our country will go into dangerous adventures from which most probably not even my husband will be able to save our people. The West will lose a very strong position and thus the gates will be opened to swamp the already rather shaky position in the Middle East.

A consolidating manoeuvre at this stage will help us to rebuild the Balkan Pact and maybe help stabilize the Middle East.

If you will help me to meet the right people under your protection and in your presence, to put the Greek case firmly and purposely before them then I feel we both will have done a great deal behind the scenes and privately in our struggle for our Western civilisation and against the evil designs of the Anti-Christ.

Please let me know what you think about this and remember that I would never have asked for your help if I did not know that it is desperately needed. Thank you so much for letting me have such confidence in you. It has been a great source of strength to both my husband and me during our sometimes lonely and even dangerous struggle.

With my very best wishes also to your wife.

Yours as ever
(signed) FR

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL
LISCOMBE LODGE
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

March 8 – 56

Your Majesty:

I received your letter of February 29th an hour ago. The delay was due to having gone to Lessburg-Virginia and we are at our winter home, a cottage at Pinehurst, N.C.

This letter of mine is not an answer to yours, merely an acknowledgement. My reply will go to you as soon as I can investigate the political currents concerned.

First though, we are vastly complimented and charmed by your personal suggestion. You have done us a great honour.

Second, for reasons that I will explain we cannot go north to Lessburg until late in April. Mrs. Marshall's sister is in the hospital here helplessly paralyzed and entirely ill and Katherine cannot leave her alone here. We are trying to arrange to move her with us soon as the weather warms up a little.

Now as to the important factors. I must for your sake be both wise and very frank. And before hand I must go about finding out whether or not my premonitions are sound. This I will do with great care and secrecy.

I have become so completely detached from Governmental contracts and political considerations that I have only the press and radio as the bases of my information.

A powerful group of the Republican Party is bitterly hostile to me in their constant endeavour to tear down everything the Democratic Party did. Foreign relief is involved. Some Democrats in the South have undercut their representatives in Washington, attacking foreign assistance and relief. This situation added to the fact that I have been more violently assailed than any other General in this generation makes political association with me a critical matter.

I fear that the procedure you suggest would center or concentrate vitriolic assaults by the hostile press and certain political leaders, added to the fact that all are gun shy on the eve of a presidential election.

I am only guessing at all this and I will quickly inform myself as to the correctness of my guesses. But I have always been pretty good at it in the past. I must be certain that I will help and not hinder.

This is a difficult letter to write. The one person in this world we would most

love to have in our home now suggests it. And that person is a very lovely Queen and her country faced with a deadly crisis!

I hope my fears are unfounded. Believe me, your Majesty, I will pray for great wisdom.

With great respect and admiration
(signed) G. C. Marshall

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL
LISCOMBE LODGE
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA

March 20, 1956

Your Majesty:

After many delays due to the temporary absence from Washington of the individuals I most trusted as to secrecy and expert knowledge on the subject concerned, I now am in a position to make a formal reply to your letter.

First, there is a complete unanimity in this feeling that it would be very unwise for you to come over to influence the decisions regarding U.S. contributions to Greece in material and funds. It could not be done secretly as you apparently thought possible and the hostile reaction would be immediate and probably bitter. Strange to state if you were less of a person, had less of charm and beauty the opposition to your efforts would be less.

This morning's papers on the Congressional reactions to the Presidents' message of yesterday on Foreign Aids are indicating of what I have just written.

My advisors are the most fully informed men outside the Administration. They were once "my men" and I can trust them completely.

In my investigation of the situation I have already been able to do some practical good to influence the allotment of material and especially the policy which tends to regulate such activities. I think I have awakened a strong feeling that the political situation in Greece must be strongly supported. How this financial allotments will go will first depend initially on the congressional appropriation following the President's message of yesterday on Foreign Aids.

I find that other countries are bringing their strongest pressures to bear for material and funds, and I have sought to intrude the feeling that what this country has already invested in Greece must not be prejudiced by some small "across the road" ruling concerning allotments.

As to me personally, there was also complete unanimity regarding the feeling that I personally would stir up a storm of political opposition by the violent group in the opposition. They count up all the billions my policies have already cost the American tax payer and in this pre-election demagoguing they want no more of my influence on ideas on the subject.

Were I in Washington at an official helm I might fight this a little but not from the outside. However, I think I have already been able to do some good and I hope to do more.

In all this I have been completely frank and I trust to your goodness to understand me. All of this has been personaly very difficult for me to write. It has been directed from the heart as well as the head.

With increased admiration and devotion.

(Signed) G. C. Marshall

Athens, March 29, 1956

Dear General Marshall,

Thank you very much for your two letters. I appreciate deeply the thought and the effort you put into finding the right decision, which I consider absolutely correct and wise. I thank you especially for the frankness in which you write because that is what I feel friends are there for, especially friends in whom one has absolute confidence.

After my letter to you there have been grave and sad developments in Cyprus. The deportation of the Head of the Cypriot Church (the oldest Christian Church on European soil) has created in Greece and Cyprus a storm with world-wide reaction. My arrival in America, apart from a terrible embarassment to the Americans, would have been a political manifestation which would have filled the Greeks with superhuman hopes and the British with the bitterest suspicions and resentments. So there we are... What a bore it is to be an official person!

My opinion at this moment of Mr. Eden and his political line cannot be expressed in words. It was most gratifying, however, to see that the European Press was unanymous in condemning the action. I had just flown to Holland with my daughter for a two-day visit with Juliana, who gave a coming-out party for her eldest daughter in which my daughter took part. It was Juliana who informed me of the deportation of our Bishop from Cyprus. From Holland I went for 24 hours to Germany, 48 hours to Paris, then Rome, Naples and back home again. The irony of the German people was interesting to see. "Is this the kind of democracy we are supposed to learn," they were asking.

The Bishop was coming to Athens to have talks with the Prime Minister who had just won the elections, as well as with my husband. The English knew that we were going to try and find some ways and means with which to keep conversations going between the British and the Bishop. They preferred to deport him. No matter what the British say about the Bishop, before using his influence in order to pacify the island, he had to insist that the Constitution for self-Government would be a truly free one, which meant a truly representative free Parliament with a democratic Government responsible to Parliament. This guarantee, although the Bishop had conceded Foreign Affairs and Defense to the British, the British refused to give, and so the talks were broken off. The other points of disagreement were of completely minor interest and could have easily been overcome.

Our people who invented, after all, Freedom and Democracy don't let themselves be easily fooled or tricked. And we mustn't forget they are Greeks after all, and react as Greeks.

Now the British have 20,000 troops in Cyprus, to hold down a rebellious population. This is far more than they sent us in 1941 to fight the Germans!

Ambassador Cannon's courageous statement came as a Godsend which helped to hold the balance for the West. When I read it in the papers in Paris, after having been praying with all my heart for a courageous American attitude, I must admit I cried.... Later on it looked as if American officials in the State Department became a little bit worried about their own courage, and once again there is a question mark. But still Cannon's remark at that stage saved the situation. What now?

The only man the British could have talked with in Cyprus is gone. We have withdrawn our Ambassador from London. The British think they can find some kind of a Quisling in Cyprus who can talk with them. I doubt if they will find one and, if they do, he will have no influence. Violence will get worse. British reaction to it already equals, if not surpasses the Nazi examples. They say they found bombs in the Bishop's cellar. Even if he ever had bombs there he would not have been so stupid as to leave them there, as he was travelling to Greece and could have expected his house to be searched any time while he was away. As a matter of fact he knew he was being deported. We were told this by a man to whom he spoke just before. His words were: "Maybe this is better so, it will be proof that I do not direct the EOKA organisation". (they are the one who throw the bombs).

It is quite important to keep in mind several points. So far the Greeks and the Turks in Cyrpus have had no trouble with each other at all. The so-called Terrorist organisation had made it known that they will respect Turkish lives and property and that their war was only against the British. Since the Bishop left there has been a minor clash beteen the Turks and Greeks. Our Prime Minister in his declaration before the deportation of the Bishop, after the talks had broken down, expressed his sorrow over the breakdown of the conversations and mentioned that Greece would after all be willing to discuss the safeguarding of not only British Bases in Cyprus

but also anywhere they like. Some of our islands are far more suitable as a base than Cyprus itself. Greece is perhaps the only country that I know that says to the British "Come in, we welcome your bases on our territory", while other countries kick them out.

There is not a single argument that I can think of that the British have to justify themselves for what they have done. Neither from a moral, political or military point of view. They are inclined to push the Turks in front of them as a shield. We would be ready to guarantee the Turks in Cyprus double nationality, their property forever, as well as no military service in the Greek Army. I really don't know what more Greece could do.

They say Cyprus is so close to the Turkish border. They forget that Samos, Mytilne, Chios and the Dodecanese are far closer. It has never been a danger to the Turks, on the contrary, the only time that Cyprus was used as a base against Turkey was by the British themselves, during the first World War! (That is a good point, don't you think?)!!

We are convinced that the British don't want a solution in Cyprus. We also think that they will do everything they can indirectly to weaken our Government. We feel they were sure the Ultra-Left would have won the elections. It would have given them a good argument with the Americans not to concede Cyprus to a disturbed and unreliable Greece. It is in their interest that there should be a troublesome and weak Greek Nation. We feel this again and again. I cannot give you any proof except silly details about this, our speculation. But we resent the British atittude bitterly.

The Middle East and the Mediterranean has become a void, a political void, without any political leadership. England is loathed. Russia is feared and America is hoped for, but hesitates to take the courageous line and become the leader morally, politically and militarily. I firmly believe that America's moral leadership is what is needed most in the world today. By that I mean that it should stand up for what is right and not sacrifice all the principles that we fought for the sake of England's blue eyes. Because England's foreign policy is a policy of expediency and has nothing to do any more with moral leadership.

Our Western civilisation after all is supposed to give the answer to Communism, Materialism and Power politics. We, small nations look to the bigger nations, such as England and America. England has failed in moral leadership. Which way will America go? With her we have all reached the crossroad. One way will lead us to a higher conception of man's dignity, freedom and responsibilities, in other words real Democracy, while the other way, through the failure of more powerful nations to stand up for these principles, will lead us all, without our knowledge even, towards greater materialism, a philosophy of expediency and power politics. And with it will go the failure of our western Civilisation. By keeping up the form of Democracy we will have killed its essence and we will have spiritually nothing different to offer to the world than what the Russians offer, and that is the will of the stronger over the weaker, as well as the search of the weaker to win favours from the more powerful.

People will weigh who is the stronger between the two camps, the East or the West. They will not sacrifice themselves any more for the ideals that the West has betrayed. Why should they?

I believe the time to choose has come. It has been working itself up slowly since the War. A small Greek island in the Mediterranean has become the test case. Unimportant as Cyprus is, she is like a mirror within which each nation will see its own soul. It is strange that this should be so. Greece, who has been the cradle of Western civilisation, who has given birth to the idea of man's individual Freedom and Democracy, should live in such agony, wondering if this heritage which she has bequeathed to Europe and America will be upheld or destroyed.

I am afraid all this sounds very dramatic but I feel it very deeply. I know that what I say is true. I consider the stake of our civilisation's mission so high that we prefer to fail with America on our side, because then there is hope to go on with the struggle, than to win any point with America against us.

I hope you are not getting by now too tired of my letters to you. But please remember that you are the only person in the world that I write to since these last years. It is a great help to me, as it has been in the years of the war when I could write to another great man, General Smuts, who I know was also a great friend of yours. What a difference it is to talk to people like him and now to you, compared to such minor people that one meets and has to discuss with. Dear old Lord Halifax came to see us during these days. There was such lack of response, such fear of expressing an opinion, but such magnificence of reserve, that my husband and I felt great admiration for the old English gentleman but... complete frustration. I am sure he left for England convinced that the Queen of the Hellenes will join the Terrorists in Cyprus in the very near future!

With my best love also to your dear wife and many thanks for all your efforts.

Yours,
(signed) F.R.

As to me personally, there was also complete unanimity regarding the feeling that I personally would stir up a storm of political opposition by the violent group in the opposition. They count up all the billions my policies have already cost the American tax payer and in this pre-election demagoguing they want no more of my influence on ideas on the subject.

Were I in Washington at an official helm I might fight this a little but not from the outside. However, I think I have already been able to do some good and I hope to do more.

In all this I have been completely frank and I trust to your goodness to understand me. All of this has been personaly very difficult for me to write. It has been directed from the heart as well as the head.

With increased admiration and devotion.

(Signed) G. C. Marshall

Athens, March 29, 1956

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With my best love also to your dear wife and many thanks for all your efforts.

Yours,
(signed) F.R.

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

December 19, 1956

Your Majesty:

I hope you will pardon this dictated note, but it is about as much as I can manage these days. As a matter of fact, I am dictating it in the room of the hospital with which you are personally familiar. It has never looked the same since you were here.

I flew up from Pinehurst – our winter home – two days ago and will be here about two more days. Mrs. Marshall is down there.

She and I together have had a rather difficult summer and fall. The principal difficulty is "years". I am not up to much of anything these days. They say I look better than I have for a long time, but limitations are more numerous.

I hope all goes well with you, His Majesty, and the children. Katherine charged me particularly not to forget the children as she was quite charmed with them.

I can't tell you very much because I move about so little and do so little that I am completely out of the world, as it were. And I know for you and His Majesty there is constant tribulation.

I send our most affectionate regards with this note.

Faithfully yours,
(signed) G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty, FREDERIKA
Queen of the Hellenes
Athens, Greece

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

May 10, 1957

Your Majesty:

I am taking the liberty of addressing to you this typed note to report on things affecting the Marshalls.

I have had a pretty sorry winter. I have been suffering from a rather peculiar complaint, though I guess it is not uncommon at my age ... a lack of balance which makes walking difficult because I have the constant sensation of falling on my nose. And my other complaint is a lack of appetite and I have been losing weight, which is not a good thing. Otherwise, I go along just about the same.

I realize I am taking quite a decided liberty in sending you this note devoted to my state of health, but you are so charitably inclined, I knew you would be interested.

At this very moment, I am in the same bed in hospital on which you saw me that day of your delightful and highy complimentary visit to me. We came up from Pinehurst on the 3rd and immediately came into the hospital for our semi-annual check-up, and also a wrestling match with the dental surgeon, who always gets the best of it.

Katherine had a very good winter, which was largely devoted to looking after me. As a matter of fact, she was in better health this winter than since she began to suffer from this prolonged three-year attack of shingles. Fortunately, I was able to nurse her through that, and she reversed the procedure by nursing me through my present ailments.

I always read with great interest any comments about His Majesty and you. You are my greatest interest across the sea, and I regret very much that I am not able to see you, because you are a very choice, wonderful memory for me.

With warmest regards to His Majesty and, of course, to you, I take the liberty of signing myself.

Affectionately,

(signed) G. C. Marshall

P.S. You may recall when you flew down here to see me you were met at the plane by General Smith, who has been Eisenhower's Chief of Staff in Europe. I am sorry to report that he is in the next room to mine suffering from a hemorrhage in one eye which has affected both of them. I think he will recover, but it is a very tedious business and required great patience.

G. C. M.

Her Majesty
FREDERIKA
Queen of the Hellenes
Athens, Greece

(1957 MAY 16)

Copy of a cable read over the telephone to General Marshall's Pentagon office on May 16, 1957:

From the Royal Palace, Athens, Greece

I have just received your letter and am very sorry to hear of your illness.

I, also, wish I could see you, and hope to do so in the not too distant future.

My husband and I send you our affectionate good wishes.

Am writing.

FREDERIKA. R.

Athens June 30, 1957

Dear General Marshall,

My letter writing has been badly delayed owing to continued travelling in and outside our country. I hope with all my heart that you have recovered from your troubles and are now quite well again.

How strange that you should have had this sensation of "falling on your nose". I wonder if it comes from the ear. After my ear operation for quite some time I had slight difficulties in keeping my balance. Other people have it so badly that they have to take drugs until it passes. Do ask the doctors please if they don't think, your troubles might come from some disturbances in the ears.

My heart goes out to you and your wife with my love and heart always. As it is really good to know that we have such good friends as you are. Apart from the Cyprus problem we are enjoying political and economical stability. Which is most satisfactory, but we are very conscious not to relax and so we keep on travelling around visiting our people in their remote villages to keep the contact and to psychologically keep the strength in our hands. One never knows when a crisis comes and must be ready to give the lead through steel moral pressure. It is after all the only power we have, and the only power we want to have. It is strange how few outsiders understand this. They think one looks for political power and influence. My husband and I know very well that. Others are much better in the political game than we ever can be. But nobody can do what we are supposed to do, which is to ... look ... our peoples ... and hold it within ours close to God. This very second ... what I say, but is all the same ... efforts, and brought many ups and downs that were closely related to our own inner development and outlook. My husband and I are now ten years in this job; and what eventful ten years they have been. Two struggling people who try to keep themselves as well as their people on the right road!

Thank goodness there is lots of fun and laughter mixed up with the ... of living. I give you a small example to convince you: Some six months ago the government decided to increase the king's money, as we are running up debts in the ... and ... a hope!!! (Don't take it literally). Behind the scenes the opposition had agreed to this, so that there should not be any embarrassing discussions in parliament. When the Bill was introduced, the Opposition dropped out and all ... the government as well as indirectly my husband and me. The law was voted and passed with only the government majority. The opposition voted against it and a disagreeable fight was on. You can imagine how horrible this was to my husband and me. It was so awfully vulgar. Overnight my husband made his decision. He wrote a letter to the Prime Minister thanking him for his understanding and earnest appreciation of ... situation but informed him that we would not accept the increase as this could, in my husband's view, only be done if all political parties agreed on this point, and that we would rather make ... economics. My husband announced that he closes the Palace, keeps five cars for the court, reduce the staff to a minimum and we will live in Tatoi which is our personal property. This came like a bombshell and the public reacted like one man. The politicians responsible for all the trouble were being badly insulted and lost ground heavily. When on the first of January we had no official reception because the palace was closed then things slowly became too much for them. Forced by public opinion the same leaders who opposed the Bill wrote a letter to the Prime Minister asking him to inform my husband that they withdrew their objections. So now the Palace is open again and yesterday we gave our first reception again for my husband's Nameday. (Have you ever heard of a King and Queen going on strike before? I never have).

We are now going to visit Tito again. This time it is a private visit at Brisni. He came to like us personally, that is to say he likes my husband. (I don't make the slightest impression on him, the woman is there only to walk behind the mule which

the man sides and during the war she is allowed to walk in front of the mule because of the mines!!!). It will be interesting to know what he has to say. He was staying with us last year at Corfu also as a private guest. At the time Nasser took over the Suez Canal. His opinion of Nasser is not very good, but he thought Nasser would get away with it. Never have I seen such political blundering as did the British and the French over Suez. The World war was fought, the Peace was over, the United Nations were formed, so that actions like the British and the French took should be avoided. But it is not this which I hold so much against them, as, that pressure of their action, the Russians took courage to massacre Hungary. The Western world had lost its moral platform from which to oppose all ... the Russians' Communism and its Empire was breaking in the Balkans, thanks to Hungary. France and England stabilized once again Russians iron look in those unfortunate countries. That is the greatest crime of our modern Western powers. Another crime is the way the British behave over Cyprus. Apart from their incredible attitude to the whole problem the way they behave in Cyprus is so frightful. We have proof after proof of the most terrible tortures are inflicted upon prisoners. No matter how much this gets denial, it is absolutely true. In my hospital here in Athens I had a young man who escaped from the island and who had his head broken through an iron ring that was put on his head and slowly squeezed together. My doctor looked after him. We are very conscious that it is only the present Conservative Government which is so big headed on the subject. The Labour Party is quite committed to give freedom to Cyprus. The British talk a lot about having official ... to Cyprus and that it was turned down. I will send you the main points of this famous ... which makes it self-evident why it was turned down. I am afraid that the present British government is to us small countries the denial of what the Western world preaches and is supposed to stand for. This does not go for the British people, the majority of which I think are disgusted with England's politics over Cyprus and Suez. The Western world and democracy were saved by America.

Thank God for America. She certainly came up to scratch. All our countries would have lost hope last year, if it had not been for Americans resolute ... over against her best friends. It proved to us that ideals are not mere slogans to America but still have a deep meaning based on truth.

My children are all well and nearly grown up. My son is busy with his military duties and will become an officer next year. He has to do service in all three arms. Now he has to join the Army ... for manoeuvres and later the Navy .... But although he has much less free time than other boys of his age, he does it all without complaints and with a great sense of duty. May God ... ways like that.

Maybe next year I will find time for a private visit to the States. It will be wonderful seeing you and your wife again.

With my best wishes and love to you ever.

F.R.

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

September 24, 1957

Your Majesty:

As General Marshall's Aide-de-Camp, I am writing for him because he has not been well and a letter to you has been too long delayed.

The General has been feeling badly for quite a long time, and he has been unable to write longhand for some several months. He finds it difficult to dictate. He purposely delayed writing you hoping he could handle this very personally, but he feels that word to you has been too long delayed. He is unable to do more than walk with a cane or with Mrs. Marshall's help around his place in a very limited way. The General especially wanted me to tell you why he has been so delinquent in writing ... his condition is but fair and he is loath to confess that he is reduced in physical activity. Fortunately, he suffers no painful ailments of any kind. It is merely a lack of strength, a lack of appetite, and too great a loss of weight.

Mrs. Marshall has attended to so much of his correspondence that he hesitated to give her this very important duty.

I am taking the liberty of telling you that I had the great honour of meeting you, first, briefly in Athens and, later, to escort you to General Marshall's room in the Walter Reed Hospital.

I am extremely sorry that he cannot manage this letter himself, and he wished me to express it in such a way that you would not feel any necessity for a reply.

My humble respects to His Majesty... and with great respect to Your Majesty,

Sincerely yours,
(signed) C. J. GEORGE
Ltd. Colonel, U.S.A.
Aide to General Marshall

Her Majesty
FREDERIKA
Queen of the Hellenes

Athens, Greece

file

October 28, 1957
November 6, 1957 P

Austria

Dear General Marshall,

I received your message here in my Austrian property where my husband and I are staying for a few weeks with my brothers. Whenever I am here I always think of you specially as thanks to your kind intervention this property was saved for me and my family. I myself as well as the Greek people owe a great deal to you, which can never be repaid. But I believe that friendship means more than any material sign of gratitude; knowing that you feel like this too, I am quite satisfied in my mind that our friendship needs no outer sign, no explanation. Do you remember when you came to see me the first time in London? I was very upset, thinking that only a Queen looking as royal as Queen Mary would be taken seriously by you! Well, many years have passed since then and we met only once or twice since then, yet I feel as if we have known each other all our life. Strangely enough, the first person to talk to me about you was General Smuts. What a great human he was. It is people like he and you who make this world into a better place than it actually seems to many people. No matter how many rockets, satellites or God knows what atomic technical devices may still boast about man's greatness, the quality of the individual human spirit will always remain in the real measure of what is truly great and what is not. You and General Smuts are the foreverness and example of a new epoch where the values of the spirit which you represent will come to be taught, fought for in each people and achieved, should the achievements of the intellect be balanced as they must, in order to turn us from the dangers of ... towards greater and greater blessings. For that quest we badly need the example of great humans. I claim that we have got a real example who in time will be found and referred to with the world's deepest gratitude.

I seem to be philosophical. You must excuse it but I am writing from my bed having just passed a rather bad attack of what the world calls it Flu. I look out of the window and see before me the most beautiful high mountains. I have climbed the highest one when I was a young girl. I wished you were here and could also look at them. Such beauty is healing if not only to the body but certainly to the spirit and that is all that matters. I expect being ill, one's mind becomes reflective and introspective. I look at the mountains. They seem so real. Yet science tells me that Matter as such does not really exist. My body is not really me (what a pleasant thought)!

The mountains and me, being made up out of atoms, and all atoms can be divided and split into energy or waves; well then it seems to me that I and the mountains are made up of the same stuff which is energy or waves.

Waves again are a constituent of mind, so Matter, the mountains and myself are Mind, undistructable infinite Mind. God is All Mind, I am part of His All Mind, like

the little finger is part of the hand. I expect that is what Jesus meant when he said: The Father and I are One. Matter is Mind and Mind is God. My true self is the unseen part of me which is me indefinite and eternal as God because it is part of God. The Scientists have certainly without knowing or wanting proved to me Man's inner unity with God, and with it our .... After all it is the Scientists who with their knowledge have proved to me that my body is only an appearance of Truth, but not the Truth. They dissolved it in front of my eyes into Mind. I did not do it. So I am Mind. I have talked this over with many atomic physicists. Most of them have never thought of the philosophic aspect of their work and have not the flexibility of mind to do so, they are too specialized to draw conclusions affecting a different field than their own technical one. But quite a few agree with my nonsense!

You see in this letter I did not bother you with politics but with philosophy. You must blame it on the result of high fever, the Russian satellite and a beautiful view!

I am quite happy if your Aide will let me know about your progress. As long as you can't write yourself, I shall regularly write to you. It gives me pleasure to do so. It is quite alright for your dear wife to read my letter to you or to throw it away as too great nonsense. Also your Aide can do so, if he does not get too bored reading it. Having your confidence he certainly has also mine.

We shall soon go back to Athens now. I hope to come to the States some time in Spring with my eldest daughter. We shall then meet again.

With my most affectionate good wishes to yourself and your dear wife. I remain your good friend and affectioned of you.

Frederica R.

THE CRACKER BARREL
NOTES AND COMMENTS
Published daily except Monday, through the season by the
Pinehurst Press Bureau: Katherine P. Sledge. Editor Tel. CY 4-5000

Friday November 29, 1957

GOING ON TODAY

A FRIENDLY VISIT

Prince Paul of Hannover, brother of Queen Frederica of Greece, was a Thanksgiving Day luncheon guest of Gen. and Mrs. George C. Marshall at Liscombe Lodge. In this country for a speaking tour, the prince was admonished by his sister not to leave the United States without looking up the Marshalls, longtime friends of the Queen. Prince Paul said that not only was he following "instruction", but that the visit expressed a very personal wish of his own and of his country, for Germany is very greatful to the Marshall Plan for its "lift-up" of that country following World War II.

Flying from Washington, where his tour of talks ends, Prince Paul found Pinehurst a "true paradise" and was much impressed with the serenity and beauty of our village. Returning to Washington in late afternoon, the handsome and charming prince expressed regret that his time here and with his noted host has to be so brief.

December 2, 1957

Send this with a letter note of explanation to the Queen.
We had Prince Paul for lunch three days ago.
Mrs. M. sent the Queen a Xmas present by Paul.
Write her a note.

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

December 9, 1957

Your Majesty:

General Marshall asked that I send you the enclosed copy of "The Pinehurst Cracker Barrel" since it carries an item regarding the visit of your brother, Prince Paul, to the Marshalls on Thanksgiving Day.

The following day, your brother telephoned me and reported on his visit with the Marshalls and, at the same time, expressed a desire for a flight in a jet aircraft and a helicopter. Unfortuntely, the weather turned bad and he was unable to fulfil what apparently had been a longtime wish.

The General asked me to advise you that Mrs. Marshall sent you a Christmas present by Prince Paul.

I am glad to report that General Marshall seems somewhat better, and I only hope that it is an indication of a return to normal health.

With great respect,

Sincerely yours,
(signed) G. J. GEORGE
Ltd. Colonel, U.S.A.
Aide to General Marshall

Her Majesty
FREDERIKA
Queen of the Hellenes
Athens, Greece

LA GRANDE MAITRESSE
DE LA COUR

The Royal Palace, Athens
16 December 1957

Nr. 29097

Lt. Col. Clarence J. George
Office of the Secretary of defense
Room 3 E 880
Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Colonel,

I am writing to you upon the expressed wish of H. M. the Queen in order to get information about General Marshall.

Her Majesty is anxious about this health as She has not received an answer from you to the letter which She had addressed, I believe, to you as his aide in the autumn from Austria, in which She had enclosed a letter for the General.

Is the General better and were you able to give Her Majesty's letter to him? I shall be expecting your reply at the Royal Palace in Athens.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas, I remain,

Yours very sincerely
(signed) Mary C. Carolou
Grande Maitresse de la Cour

OFFICE OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY
G. C. MARSHALL
WASHINGTON

Pinehurst, North Carolina
January 11, 1958

Your Majesty:

My secretary arrived from Washington, so I take this opportunity to dictate a note to you and the King. I asked Colonel George to write you a note of what had happened here, but I will tell you nevertheless.

We found your brother most attractive, and we were sorry he could only remain for a single meal. I was much flattered that he made the tedious trip down here – this is not an easy place to get – to see me and for that, of course, I have you to thank.

I have been better off here than I was at Leesburg. We left there on November 1 and will remain here until May 1. I am now able to get in one-half mile to a mile of walking a day, which is just that much more than I was able to do when I was up in Virginia. While Pinehurst can grow pretty cold at times, nevertheless it has a fairly agreable winter climate. I have not been able to sit out on the lawn as much as usual, but I have had several meals there and a few drinks.

I never see your photograph – I am now referring to that on your Christmas card – without recalling the first time I saw you standing by the fire in your little sitting room at Claridges. That made an unforgettable impression on me, but not so much as your resume of what was the matter with Europe and what would have to be done to correct it. I only got so far in the battle, but we seem to have lost a good bit of ground, although I am not at all familiar with the circumstances today.

For a while, they tried to keep me in touch, more or less declined that because they would expect me a well-advised opinion in keeping with my past experience which is not at all the case. People are always questioning me on the subject of Europe and the Middle East and will never believe me when I assure them that I know no more than what is in the paper or hear on the television, and Mrs. Marshall is better informed that way than I am.

Judging from your card, your eldest girl is a replica of you as you must have been as a younger woman, the youngest lady is charming looking. She counters her father's serious aspect.

With New Year greetings to both of you, and my most affectionate regards,

Faithfully yours,
(Signed G. C. Marshall

Her Majesty
FREDERIKA
Queen of the Hellenes
Athens, Greece

Unclassified

Routine

Office of the Chief of Staff
Department of the Army

U.S. Army Military Attache
Athens, Greece

Please pass following message to Queen Frederika from General George C. Marshall:

"I was delighted and highly privileged to receive your cable. It was good of you to express a desire to visit Mrs. Marshall and me. You have always been most gracious towards us.

"Frankly, I am in poor health and, in all probability, I will be in Pinehurst at that time. I am most anxiuos that you don't tax your energy nor burden your schedule with such a lengthy trip. Besides, I am so weak that I am sure you would find me a poor conversationalist. However, should I still be here at Walter Reed, it will be easy to arrange things.

"With affection, and with great respect to His Majesty."

9 October 1958

OCS – ARMY
General George C. Marshall
54204 1 1

Lt. Colonel C. J. George
Aide to General Marshall

Unclassified

FEB. 1959

YW146
IKZ809 GR142/LAB 1805

PALAIS ROYAL D'ATHENES 22 25 1900 GRKETAT =

GENERAL MARSHALL WALTER REED HOSPITAL WASHINGTON DC =

ALL MY THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES ARE WITH YOU CONSTANTLY FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY
FREDERICA R

RCA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

February 26, 1959

Your Majesty:

Your gracious cabled message was brought to Mrs. Marshall's attention and was deeply appreciated. Appreciated also was your son's expressed wish of a few days ago to visit the General, and it is regretted that his condition prevented it.

Within the past two days, General Marshall has improved slightly. He is resting comfortably, focusing better, and speaking more often. His doctor is more encouraged each day that the General's condition remains stable.

Mrs. Marshall has asked me to thank you for your kind thoughts and to extend her warm wishes to you, His Majesty, and the children.

Respectfully,
(Miss) M. L. Spilman
Secretary to general Marshall

Her Majesty
FREDERIKA
Quen of the Hellenes
Athens, Greece

On Board H.M.S. POLEMISTIS
May 29, 1960

Dear General Marshall

My husband and I had been all day far away in the mountains visiting by mule some forgotten villages to bring them love and sympathy in their daily struggle for life. It was midnight when we returned to our ship and heard the news about the Summit meetings disaster.

Together with the deep disappointment that we share with everybody else both my husband and my heart's sympathy and admiration go out to you and the President.

We know how deeply the President and you must feel not to have been able to make the generous gestures and proposals that should have brought Peace in our time.

Khrushchev did not want to hear then knowing they would be compelling. All of us are the poorer for it as all of us shared your hopes and superhuman efforts, if not in deed but certainly in spirit.

In this colossal struggle to see goodness, decency and generosity triumph over concentrated evil we feel that you and the President represent what is best in all of

us. Philosophically speaking and thinking, we feel that to make the greatest effort in the right direction under the most appalling circumstances is the greatest success which individual humans can achieve, as they thus justify in themselves the Divine spark that lies in all of us.

This is what you and the President have done and we know will continue to do. for this we are all grateful and satisified.

If others take what is best in us and use it for evil, that is not any more our responsibility. Yet our own reaction to this evil is again what concerns us. And so the struggle goes on.

We know that the "cosmic" insults, (there is no other big enough word I can think of) heaped upon the President and the U.S. the very next day would have neutralised any furhter efforts on a higher plane to morally force Khruschev back to the Conference table and make him listen to the President's words which we all longed to hear.

But we must hear these words. He must say them. Not his successors. He is the man with the great soul. His words will have a greater effect and meaning than anybody else's.

Great humans such as you and the Preisdent are never led by bitternss and disappointment, but walk from wisdom towards wisdom holding our hopes and aspirations in their hearts and minds.

If you find a moment's time please tell the President of these feelings.

God bless you both in all your further efforts which bind us to you in heart and soul.

(Signed) Frederica R.

OCSA, E 664 The Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.
January 15, 1961

Dear Queen Frederica:

After General Marshall's death, I was assigned the office he formerly used. Since I am the president of the George C. Marshall Research Foundation, to which the General gave his papers, the files have been retained in this office since that time. Recently, Dr. Forrest C. Pogue, who is writing General Marshall' biography and arranging the General's papers for ultimate transfer to the Marshall Library, reported to me that he had found several letters belonging to you and asked what disposition should be made of them.

These letters will be held in my office for such disposition as you may wish made of them. I can have them destroyed and send you certificate of destruction, or I can return them to you, properly sealed, through any channel you may suggest.

I shall await a reply from you before tking any action.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,
(Sgd) Omar N. Bradley

Her Majesty
Queen of the Hellenes
The Royal Palace
Athens, Greece

Received from Miss Alma D. Hickey, Office of general Omar N. Bradley, sealed envelope addressed to Mr. J. S. Earman, C.I.A.

Frank J. Freschi

27 January 1961 (2:03 p.m.)
Date

Athens, Greece
June 19, 1961

Dear General,

I wish to thank you very much for your kind letter and for our thoughtfulness in asking me for my wishes with regards to my letters to the late Genral Marshall.

I regret my delay in replying to you and in advising you that I would like to have these letters returned to me. I leave it up to you as to the best and safest way of sending them to me.

Hoping to see you soon again, I send you my best wishes.

Frederica R.

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 JULY 1961

General Omar N. Bradley, USA
Room 2E664 The Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General Bradley:

I enclose an envelope which I received from my representative in Athens who said he had been requested by the writer of its contents to see that it was delivered to you.

With best wishes.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Enslosure

P.S. I have no knowledge of the contents of the letter.
AWD

OMAR N. BRADLEY
GENERAL OF THE ARMY

OCSA, 2E 664, The Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.
July 27, 1961

Dear Queen Frederica:

In accordance with the wish expressed in your recent letter to me, you will find attached the letters about which I wrote you earlier this year. I believe it best to forward them in the same manner in which my previous letter was sent to you.

I am sorry that I cannot deliver these papers to you personally for it would be very nice to see you again. However, I have no immediate plans for visiting your country, nor does it appear that I shall be fortunate enough to do so even in the near future. It seems practical therefore to take this present course.

With kindest personal regards and all best wishes.

Sincerely,

(signed) Omar N. Bradley

Her Majesty
Queen of the Hellenes
The Royal Palace
Athens, Greece

THE DEATH OF GENERAL MARSHALL ENDS THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH QUEEN FREDERICA

II. LETTER

from

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

November 15, 1965

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Her Majesty
Queen Frederika
Athens, Greece

Your Majesty:

Dr. Wernher von Braun has informed me of your deep personal interest in the space programs of the United States and, in particular, in the manned flight aspects of our programs.

We are most deeply gratified by your interest and the sympathy for our efforts which it reflects.

Dr. Von Braun's very heavy responsabilities for major systems do not, of course, extend to the selection and training of astronauts or to manned flight operations. It falls to me therefore to provide a definitive response to your special interests as they have been explained to me. I regret to inform you that it is not possible nor or in the foresseable future for NASA to make exceptions in the highly technical and demanding task of selecting and training astronauts. For some time, it will be possible to give consideration only to persons who meet very rigorous requirements for skills, experience, and training and who fall into a rigidly prescribed age bracket.

May I again express our very great appreciation for your remarkable interest and courageous personal attitude. We all look forward to a day when men may participate more widely and personally in the great adventure of space flight.

Very respectfully,

(Sgd) James E. Webb
Administrator

III. LETTER
from
THE PRESIDENT
of the
"ASSOCIATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES' WELFARE ALUMNI"

May 1982

"From ... HELLINIKON VORAS:

The Alumni of the "Children's Towns" were provoked by the TV broadcast by Mrs. Alexiou (left-Communist) and the debate in the House of Parliament that followed.....

The broadcast accused Queen Frederica of abducting Greek children contrary to the will of their mothers who wanted their children to go behind the "Iron Curtain". I simply do not want to make a comment, in the hopes that the International Red Cross, The Women's Association, the United Nations Welfare Department and the Rene Sand's Committee will give an answer to the lady, so that this theatrical situation will draw to an end, but before doing so I would like to quote the answer of the President of the Alumni of the Children's Town of "Agios Dimitrious" who was authorized to speak on behalf of the Administration Council... "None of us were submitted to brainwashing by any political orientation. We have been brought up in accordance with a Humanitarian education and in keeping with our beliefs in God, the Orthodox religion and our Greek heritage. It was an education that prepared children who progressed through the state system of education for university entrance. Less able children went to agricultural or vocational schools, organised by "TM Welfare". The main emphasis of our education was moral development, where we learned, honesty, justice, love of God, love of our country and how to respect one another, the so called human rights.

We were all orphans from both sides, Communist and non-Communist alike. We all had one thing in common, we were all suffering from a common, tragic misfortune. This is what brought us together and this was our guide. Today, after all that wonderful care given to us by the selfless ladies who looked after us we have become university professors in Greece and abroad, doctors, military officers, engineers, lawyers, priests, teachers, businessmen, farmers and so on.

This humanitarian inspiration of Queen Frederica and her co-workers coupled with the love of the Greek people and the moral support of the world is something we are very thankful for. Every thinking person has to recognize the benefits of this, only immoral people and adherents of homicide can reject "TM Welfare".

"We are aware of the problems in our country based on our past experiences. We are sensitive to every national misfortune, but we were shocked at the atmosphere predominating when this issue was debated in Parliament, which dared to describe the national and humanitarian work of "TM Children's Towns" as child abduction.

We hope that our leaders, aware of the sensitivities of the new generation will deny these distorted assertions. It is a national calamity this perjury of the children of our generation. Tactics such as these do not unite the nation. We hold our leaders responsible and hope that they will not take the youth of today into the inferno in which we lived."

Signed: The President of the "Association of TM Welfare Alumni. Chidlren town Agios Dimitrious."

LIST OF CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY "THEIR MAJESTIES' FUND":

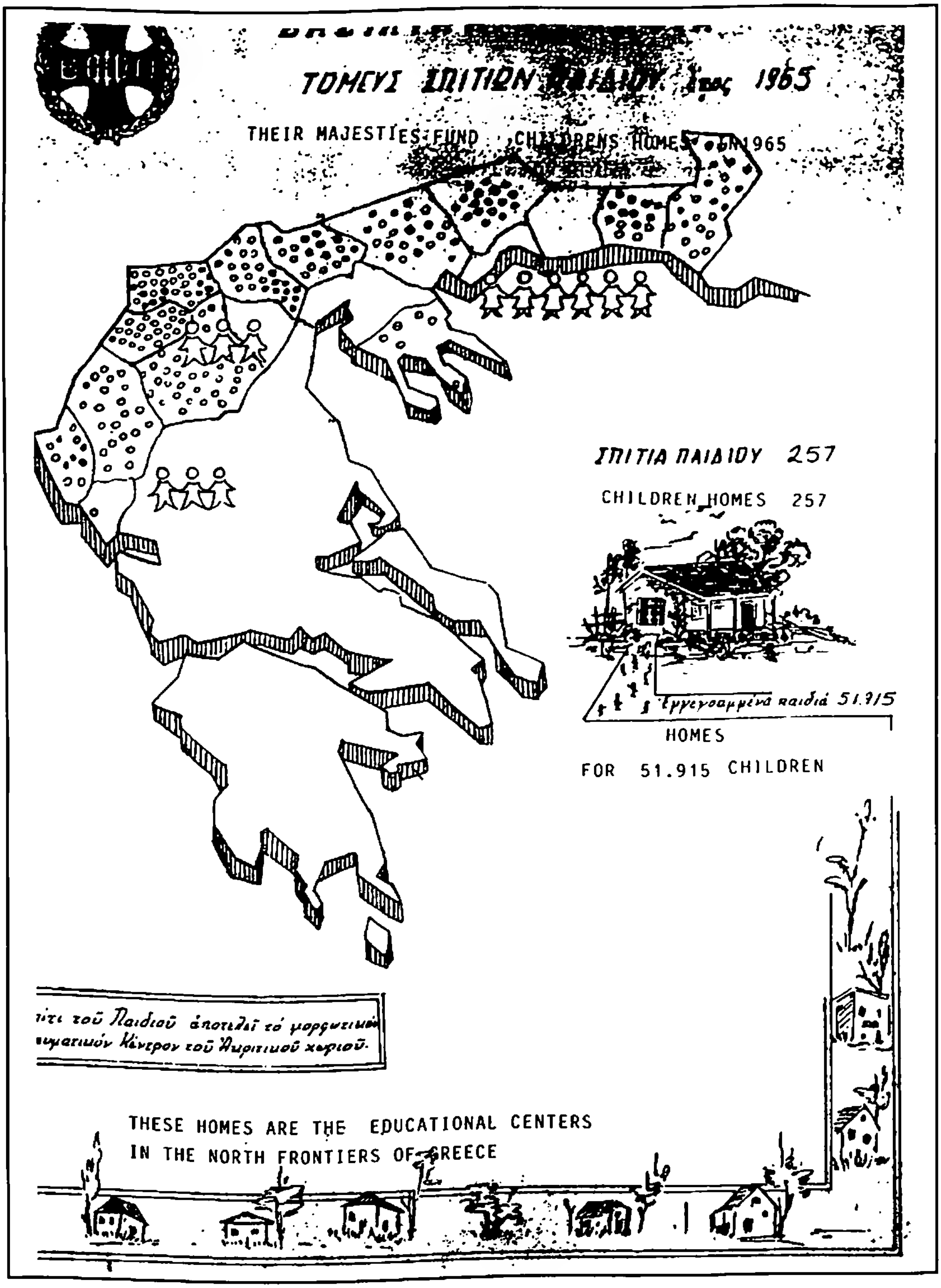
1) The Soldiers' Flannel.
2) The Welfare Fund of Northern Greece.
3) The Red Cross Hospital of Konitsa.
4) The Maternity Hospital of "Alexandra".
5) The Accident Unit Hospital in Kifissia.
6) The Organisation Dealing with Children's Clothing.
7) Homes for the Blind in Athens and Thessalonike.
8) The Konitsa Agricultural School.
9) The National Society for the Protection of Unemployed Youngsters.
10) The School for Craftsmen in Cefallonia.
11) The National Children's Youth.
12) Protection for Handicapped Children.
13) National Foundation for the Deaf and Dumb.
14) Asylum for Children in Thessalonike.
15) The Friends of the Athens Police.
16) Boy and Girl Scouts.
17) The Protection of Working Girls.
18) Anavyrta School in Kifissia.
19) Organisation of Hellenic Light (Ellinikon Fos).
20) Organisation Mitera (Mother).
21) Animal Protection Society.
22) Children's Hospital. (Reconstructed mostly by T.M. Fund).
23) Evangelismo Hospital. (Reconstructed by T.M. Fund).
24) Saint Paul Hospital.
25) The Young Girls' Endowment fund.
26) The Students' Home at the University of Thessalonike.



T.M.F. Homes for Children.
Their Majesties' Fund

STRENGTH OF WARDS AND PERSONNEL OF PAEDOPOLIS CITIES FUNCTIONING AT THE CHARGE OF "T.M. FUND OF NORTHERN GREECE" ON 30TH APRIL 1949.

Names of Children's Cities	City	Wards	Personnel
A. Children's Cities depending both administratively and financially from "Northern Greece Welfare Fund".			
1. Apostle Paul	Kastri	676	78
2. St. Alexander	Aghios Andreas	607	78
3. St. Irene	Salonica	640	96
4. St. George	Kavalla	473	62
5. St. Sofia	Vollo	383	51
6. Apostle Paul	Larissa	500	54
7. St. Constantine	Jannina	254	36
8. St. Helen	Jannina	508	71
9. Apostle Paul	Jannina	150	14
10. St. Eleutherios	Stylis	311	44
11. The Saviour	Agrinion	250	36
12. St. Olga of Florina	Salonica	198	16
13. National Institute	Tour La Reine	72	18
14. National Institute	Leros	687	62
		5709	715
B. Kitchens for refugee children run by and depending administratively from "Northern Greece Welfare Fund".			
15. Kitchen at	Grevena	459	9
16. Kitchen at	Jannina	1250	15
17. Kitchen at	Karditsa	1250	17
		2991	41



Their Majesties' Fund, Children's Homes in 1965.

C. Children's Cities depending administratively from "Greek Children's Protection Service" (E.Y.P.E.) and financially from "Northern Greece Welfare Fund".

Names of Children's Cities	City	Wards	Personnel
18. St. Claralampos, Iossiphogon	Athens	597	90
19. P.I.K.A. (12 stations)	Athens	654	99
20. A.B.Y.P.	Athens	61	—
21. St. Dimitrios Orphanage	Psychiko	147	13
22. Papafion			
23. Melissa			
24. Megas Alexandros	Salonica	1566	166
25. P.I.K.P.A.			
26. Merimna			
27. Aristotle of National Institute	Salonica	374	34
28. St. Spyridon	Corfu	857	195
29. Apostle Andreas	Patras	553	72
30. St. Andreas	Syra	923	112
31. St. Christopher			
31. St. Jacob, Adelphotheos	Mytilene	916	140
33. Theotokos	Rhodes	698	97
34. Evangehlistria	Tinos	331	42
35. St. Nicolas	Lamia	281	44
36. Technic. Schools of National Institute	Lyxouri	53	
		7911	1015



Map of all the Paedopolis built by Queen Frederica's Vassili Pronia
(Their Majesties' Fund) for the Greek orphans.

EPILOGUE

Ever since my childhood, I have been conscious of my Greek heritage, a culture which has given the world a host of creative beings: philosophers, artists, dramatists, poets, mathematicians, law makers, scientists, and theologians. Personalities who have shaped the thought of the world today.

Wherever I have been, even in my explorations into the world of Space my reading has made me aware of the Greek presence. Since childhood I have learned to respect the Nations of Europe; a respect that has been reciprocated by those countries themselves. When the European Community was formed, I welcomed the Union of the European Spirit, with all my heart.

I have followed the history of the long lasting Greek Byzantine Empire, tracing its influence on Christianity. When St. Constantine, son of St. Helen, declared it to be the religion of the Empire in 313 AD, it became the first nation in the world to recognise the Christian faith. I have followed the 400 years (1453–1821) of Turkish occupation, the slavery of the Greeks, the destroyed Christian churches, the desecrated icons of Christ and the Saints, but the Hellenic Spirit is always alive. These are my origins and heritage.

I have seen a time when the Greek flag bore the Crown of Monarchy. A succession of Kings and Queens, who through their own personal sacrifice and diplomatic endeavours, wrote the most successful pages of our past. Sovereigns who forged strong bonds with their Allies for the benefit of their Nation.

Today I am at a loss to understand what is happening! Greece has become the target of "an unseen phenomenon"...

Where are those Allies with whom we forged such strong bonds?...

I wrote this book to present approximately half a century of history. To illustrate to all those, not swayed by the worthless words of demagoguery, and blessed with an open mind, how the principal characters of these years have conducted the State to prosperity and happiness, against the horrific odds of war and guerrilla strife.

The leaders and their people made soaring sacrifices so that the succeeding generations could enjoy the fruits of freedom and prosperity. The personae of this

"Memoir" are an example for others to follow. Let us pay a tribute to all those who fell in the battles for Liberty.

Virtue spring from the Soul	Η ΑΡΕΤΗ ΠΗΓΑΖΕΙ ΕΚ ΤΗΣ ΨΥΧΗΣ
Aristotle	ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΗΣ

LILIKA PAPANICOLAOU

Biographical Notes

by Dame Françoise Tempra

Lilika was born Efthalia Maris, in 1923, in Andros, one of the larger Greek islands of the Cyclades archipelago. Her father Nicholas Maris belonged to a distinguished dynasty of shipowners. Her mother was the great-grandaughter of Bishop Polemis, a signatory for the independence of Andros in 1929 and descendant of the great Greek poet Iannis Polemis, the last male of the Polemis generation.

With such an ancestry added to the sophisticated artistic heritage of her native cyclades one could hardly be astonished at Lilika's immense creativity and talent in both artistic and literary fields.

From the age of eight, she attended the French "Couvent des Ursulines" on the neighbouring island of Tinos, where she carried on her studies until her seventeenth birthday. Lilika's ebullient temperament never ceased to express itself in the most original manner. She excelled both in art and music as well as in literary subjects. Her extrovert personality as well as a self-assured hand at drawing would tempt her to amuse her school friends with entertainingly resembling pencil portraits of the unsuspecting nuns. Her draughtsmanship and pictorial abilities both were revealed at an early age.

In 1938, the "Couvent des Ursulines" was priviledged with the visit of the French Minister of Culture, Monsieur Henri Cosme. He took great interest in Lilika's pictorial works and in particular the portrait of Princess Frederica of Hanover (illustrated page 2) who had just wedded Crown Prince Paul of Greece. The minister also listened with great enjoyment to Lilika's performance at the piano as well as to her extremely personal and highly "coloured" fluent French that her own father described, often, with a smile as that of a "Franco-Levantine". The French Minister of Culture then informed the Mother Superior of the "Couvent des "Ursulines": "France was prepared

prepared to offer a scholarship to Lilika Maris both for the prestigious "Ecole des Beaux-Arts" and for the "Conservatoire de Musique" of Paris.

Unfortunately world political events decided otherwise of the fate of Lilika's following years.

King George II had returned to Greece after the plebisite of 1935 which demanded the restoration of the monarchy.

After Italy's invasion and annexation of neighbouring Albania in 1939, the Italians on 28th October 1940 forced Greece into war: they invaded the country from Albania. The Greek army marked an early victory driving back the Italians and occupying a quarter of Albania. However, a massive German army invaded Greece via Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, forcing King George II and his government into exile. The occupation of Greece lasted until 1944.

During the war, Lilika's family was divided. Her father in London (as was King George II and his government) was decoraed for donating the building which became "The House of the Greek Sailors". Her brother Michael, on a Greek warship acted as liaison officer between Greek and British Navies: he, too, received a decoration for his dedication and bravery.

Lilika, still in Greece, with her mother and younger brother Adrian (who later became the President of the Greek community in Montreal, Canada), became an underground member of the X Organisation, to fight the Nazis during the German occupation. She and her mother with some foreign diplomats attempted to escape from occupied Greece in 1942, to join her father and her fiancé in London. After an adventurous and risky episode, they were unfortunately caught in the mountains, threatened of death but finally allowed to return to Athens. Subsequently Lilika succeeded in reaching Alexandria, in Egypt and soon embarked on the troopship "The Andes" to be, at long last, reunited with her father and her fiancé Sophocles, in London.

Lilika's arrival in London meant also her marriage to Sophocles (see also page 490). Sophocles Papanicolaou was born in Greece in 1912. A distinguished economist (he read Economics, Political Sciences and Law), he graduated in 1934, from Athens' University. He completed his military service in the Greek Army in 1935 with the rank of Second-Lieutenant.

King George II of Greece returned to his throne after the plebiscite of 25 November 1935, having been away for 13 years. The re-organisation of the various departments of the Royal Palace, made him consult the Athens University professors for advice. Sophocles Papanicolaou was suggested by two of his former lecturers, as the most qualified man to head, as Economic Adviser, the department of Finance at the Royal Court, which entailed the "Civil List and Royal Estates". At the age of 23, Sophocles Papanicolaou entered the service of the Greek Crown: he was nominated "Intendant de la Liste Civile de Sa Majesté Roi des Hellenes" and of the Royal Estates.

In 1940 during the Second World War, Sophocles, with King George II, took part in the Battle of Crete. During the occupation of Greece, he was asked by his Sovereign to accompany him out of the country. King George II and Sophocles first travelled to Alexandria and then on to London, where they established the headquarters of the Greek Monarchy in exile at the Hotel Claridges. And when Lilika reached London in 1945, King George II was best man at her marriage to Sophocles (illustrated page 109). In 1946 Marie-Hélène, their first daughter, was born in London. Sophocles became a member of the Allied Club where he befriended Charles de Gaulle and most of the exiled heads of occupied countries.

After the Greek plebiscite of September 1946, in favour of a return of the monarchy, Sophocles accompanied his king back to Greece. And Lilika followed her husband in Athens soon afterwards, where in 1949, her twin sons John-Paul and Nicholas-Frederick were born, and were christened by King Paul and Queen Frederica (illustration page 212).

King George II died in April 1947 and was succeeded by his brother Paul and his Queen Frederica. As is customary in such circumstances, Sophocles offered his resignation but was asked by the new King Paul I of Greece, to remain, and was given, for the first time in the history of the Greek Royal Court the title of "Intendant Général de la Liste Civile de Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellenes" and of the Royal Estates.

Lilika had already, as one of the prominent ladies of the Royal Court, worked with Queen Frederica at Their Majesties' Fund Charity. This fund was intended for the creation of the paedopolis, the cities that became the homes as well as educational and training institutions to the 52,000 Greek orphans abducted by the Communists forces from 1939. Queen Frederica and the ladies of the Court dedicated to this charitable enterprise, used to travel to the distant mountain villages in precarious conditions (often the last part of the journey on mules' back) to check the progress and report on the specific needs of each project. Lilika often travelled with the Queen and sometimes the Queen's daughters the Princesses Sofia (now Queen of Spain) and Irene. But mostly Lilika travelled on her own, especially to the distant Northern region of Ipiros, the village of Kavalla, for which she was mainly responsible, spending one week every 40 days, there.

When King Paul I died in 1964, he was succeeded by his son Constantine. Again Sophocles Papanicolaou, as was customary in such circumstances, offered his resignation as did all the members of the Royal Court. King Constantine II asked Sophocles to continue to serve the Greek Crown. Sophocles did so, even after the abolition of the Greek Monarchy in 1974, and until his own death in 1990.

Lilika and Sophocles left Greece and settled in London in 1968. Sophocles continued as Economic Adviser to the former King Constantine of the Hellenes. He also contributed or served on the board of Directors or as President to many charitable

institutions (hospitals, orphanages, schools, asylums, churches etc..). Lilika resumed with great fervour her involvement in art. The children had grown. Marie-Hélène, Lilika's daughter married a distinguished Greek businessman, a graduate from the Polytechnic College of Zurich, Honorary Consul General for Greece and a highly esteemed member of the Orthodox Church, Athanassis Ghertsos. They gave four grandchildren to Lilika and Sophocles: Fedora, Eleonora, Constantine and Theodor. Eleonora showed, early, an artisic disposition taking after her grandmother and exhibited some sculptures with Lilika's large retrospective exhibition organised in Nice, on the Côte d'Azur, by the Directorate of Museums of the city. A real accolade for Lilika's talent, as such official events in France are generally the priviledge of famous and... departed artists!

Lilika's twin sons, John-Paul and Nicholas-Frederick, achieved Master Degrees in Economics from Harvard and Columbia Universities in the USA. Nicholas-Frederick lives in New-York and married an American, Alexandra Peabody-Gardner. They have three children: Tatiana, Sophocles and Alexandra. John-Paul married a Greek and had two children: Rea and Sophocles. John-Paul remarried recently on the 29th August 1994 to Elina, also Greek.

As a philosopher and a poet Lilika made quite a name for herself (2 poetry volumes published). She also shared Queen Frederica's keen interest in astronomy and space travel. Her painterly interpretations of the cosmos paradoxically link the most avant-garde thematic choice with an abstracted Neo-Byzantinian pictorial idiom. (See LILIKA PAPANICOLAOU: Her life and Works – F. Tempra – Pub. Poulton's – ISBN 99909-965-2-0). She has become a universally acknowledged pioneer and her works can be found in the following museums:

1. NASA: National Aeronautic and Space Administration, Washington D.C., U.S.A.
2. NASA Lyndon Johnson Museum, Houston, U.S.A.
3. National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C., U.S.A.
4. Space Flight Control, Moscow, Russia
5. Star City Moscow, Russia
6. Buhl and Carnegie Scientist Center, Pittsburgh, U.S.A.
7. Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A.
8. Museum of Modern Art, Nice, France
9. Abegg Foundation, Riggisberg, Bern, Switzerland
10. National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta, Malta
11. Palm Spring Museum, Palm Spring, California, U.S.A.
12. Musée Des Beaux-Arts du Touquet, France
13. Pace University Collection, New York, U.S.A.
14. Fordham University Art Collection, New York, U.S.A.
15. Cathedral Museum, Mdina, Malta
16. Vorres Museum, Athens, Greece
17. Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa, Malta
18. National Museum of St Petersburg, Russia

She has also been the recipient of the following awards, honours and distinctions:

1981 1st Prize Painting, International Grolla D'oro di Treviso Art Convention, Venice, Italy

1982 Artist Guest of Honour, Grolla D'oro di Treviso Art Convention, Venice, Italy

1987 Medal "Acropolis" by the Municipality of Nice, France. Exhibition sponsored by the Directorate of Museums of Nice, France.

1990 Grand Prix Européen des Arts et des Lettres, 1st painting Prize, Gras, France

1992 The Gagarin Award, Moscow, Russia

1995 Artist Guest of Honour and Member of the Jury for the First International Art "Biennale" of Malta, 20–26 May 1995, Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta, Malta

SOPHOCLES PAPANICOLAOU (1912–1990)

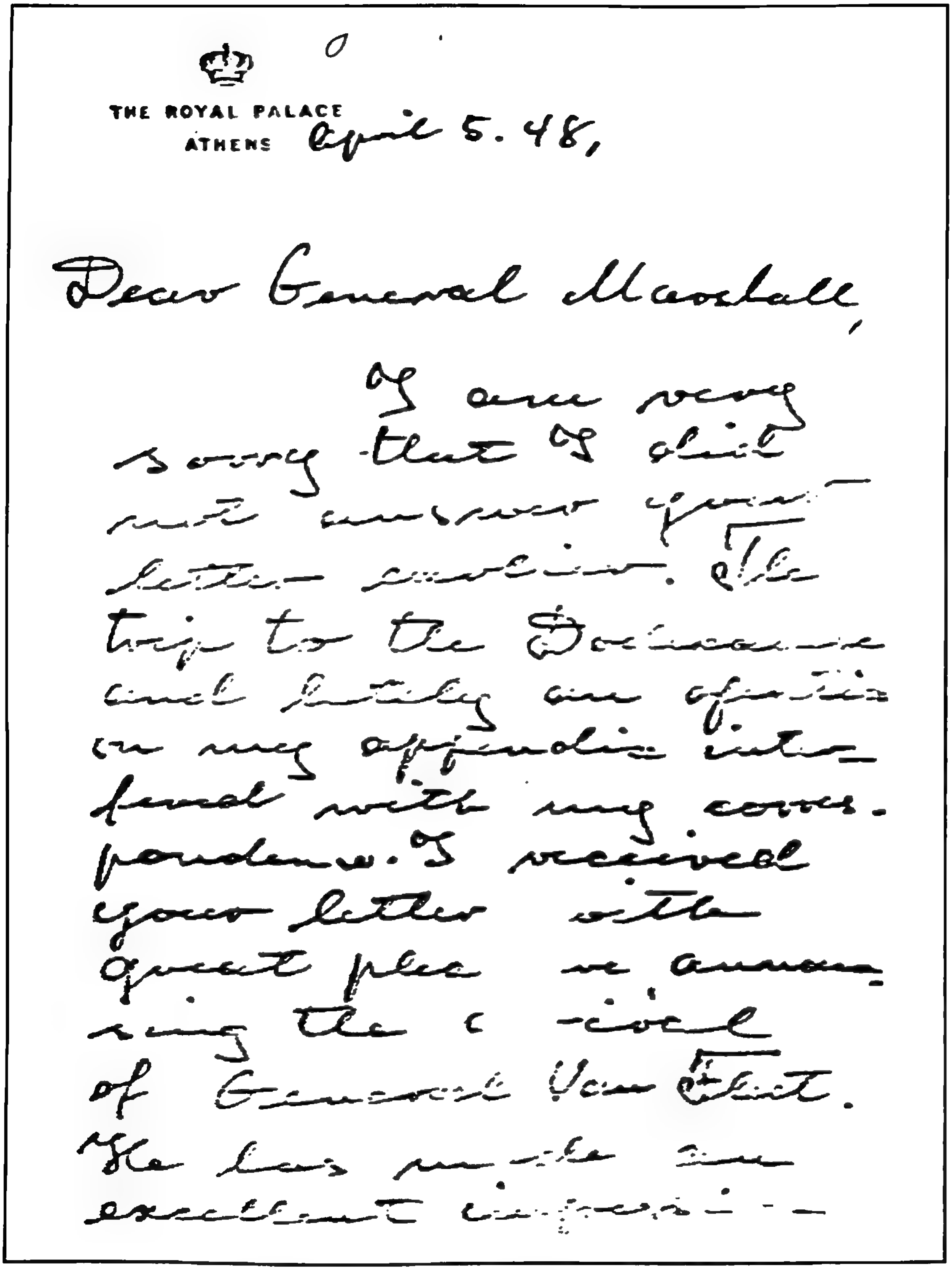


Lilika and her husband Sophocles with some of his distinctions:
1955 Knight Commander of the George Cross, Greece
1955 Grand Cross of the Phoenix, Greece
1956 Das Grosse Verdienstkreuz mit Stern, Germany
1957 Cross of the Apostle Mark, Patriarcate of Alexandria, Egypt
1962 Cavaliere Gran Croce al Merito della Republica, Italy
1963 Knight Commander of the Victorian Order, United Kingdom of Great Britain
1963 Grand Croix de l'Ordre de l'Etoile Noire de la Légion d'Honneur, France
1964 Kommander Af 1.grad of Dannebrogordenen, Denmark
1980 Golden Cross of the Patriarcate of Antioche, Syria
1983 Golden Cross, Greek Archdiocese of Thyatira, United Kingdom

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In writing this book, I worked with the help, advice and encouragement of a number of dear and patient people to whom I owe a great debt of gratitutde: Sir Victor Goodhew, Sir Ronald Miller, Professor Constantine Hadjidmitriou, Mrs. Iris Lillys, Mr. Alister Bredée, Dame Françoise Tempra, Mr. Albert Storage, as well as the Assistant to Archivist Librarian of General George Marshall Archives, Mr. Marti Gansz. The President of Their Majesties Fund Mrs. Alexandra Mellas. The Vice-President, Mrs. Leloudas who presented me with all her archives and Mrs. Eli Zlakosta. Unfortunately these ladies are dead and will not see this book, a tribute to their work. I should also like to salute the only surviving member of "TM Fund" Committee, Mrs. Eleni Vrella from Thessaloniki Macedonia. Also my daughter Marie-Hélène Ghertsos, my sons Nicholas-Frederic and John-Paul Papanicolaou, my nephew Nicholas M. Maris and the staff of their offices, as well as the staff of the British Newspaper Library at Colindale. These are only a few to whom I wish to express my sincere thanks.

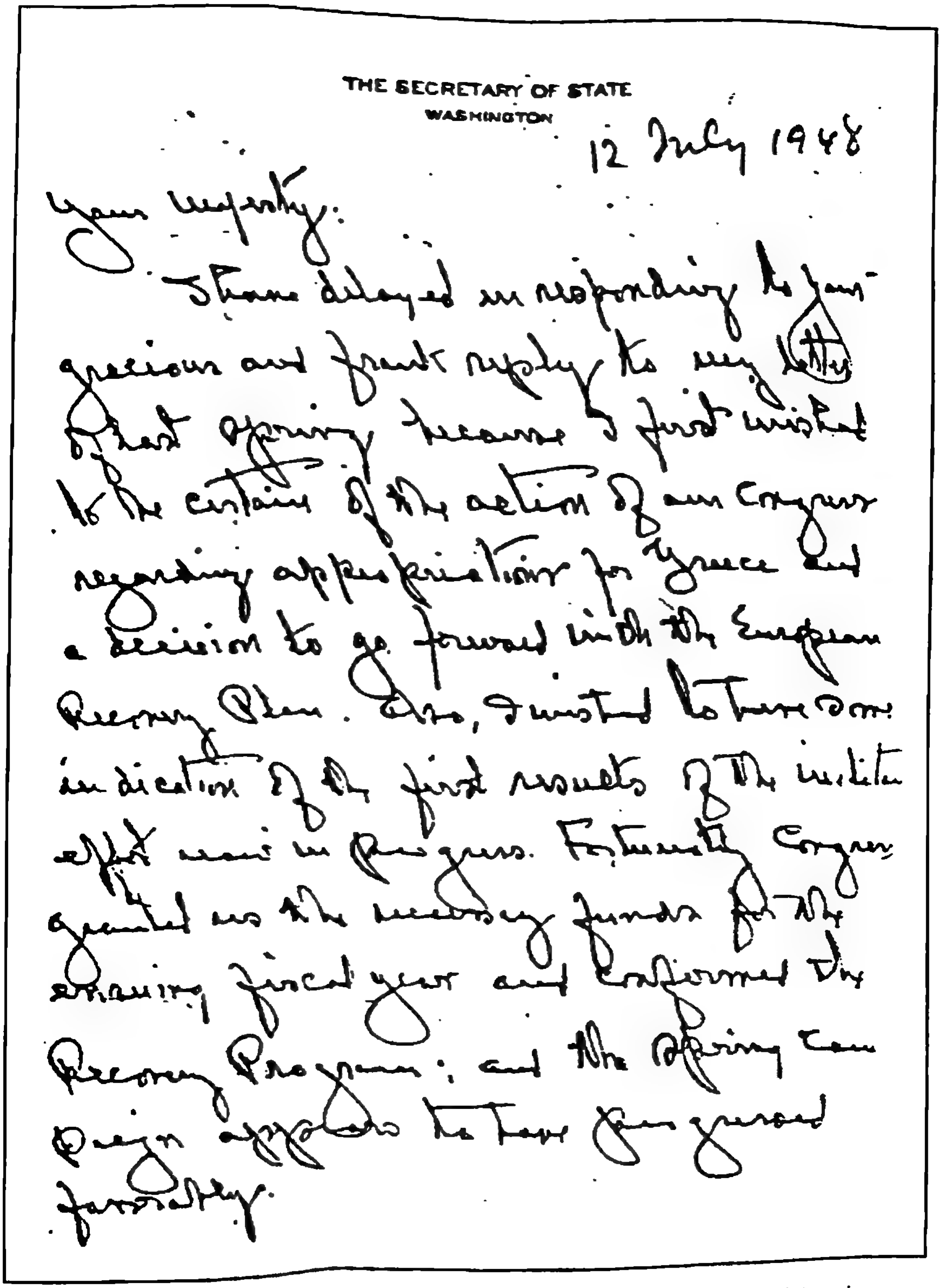
Above all I wish to thank my dearest and beloved husband who, though no longer alive to share my feelings, encouraged me with his unfailing optimism, his valuable knowledge and his constant contribution to research for this book, during the many long months of writing. His ideas and suggestions provided an inspiring environment to creative incentive to me. Without his help and love this book would never have been written. It is his as much as mine.


THE ROYAL PALACE
ATHENS April 5. 48,

Dear General Marshall,

I am very sorry that I did not answer your letter earlier. The trip to the Dodecanese and lately an operation on my appendix interfered with my correspondence. I received your letter with great pleasure announcing the arrival of General Van Fleet. He has made an excellent impression –

Manuscript letter from Queen Frederica to General Marshall, State Secretary of the United States of America.



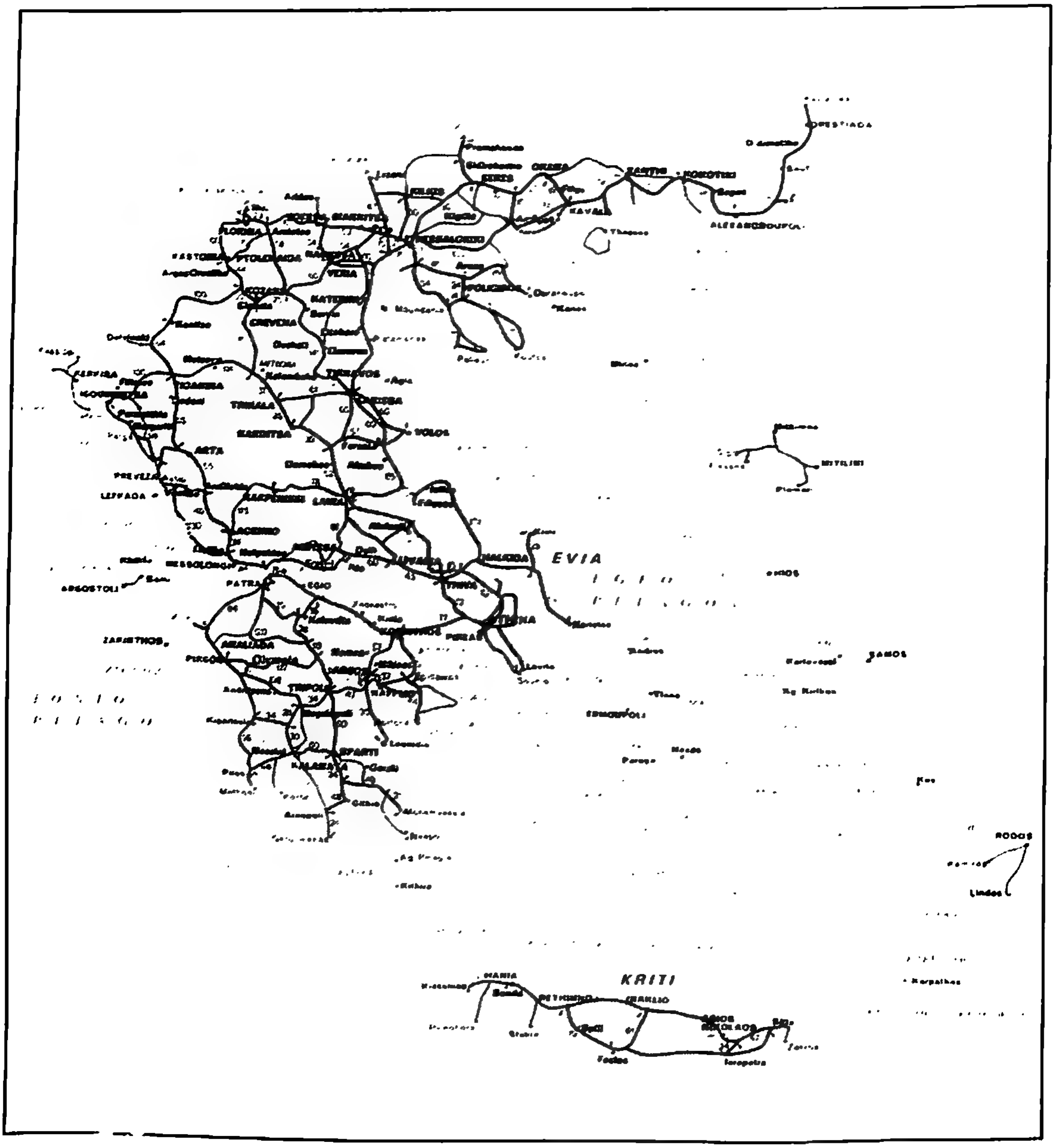
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

12 July 1948

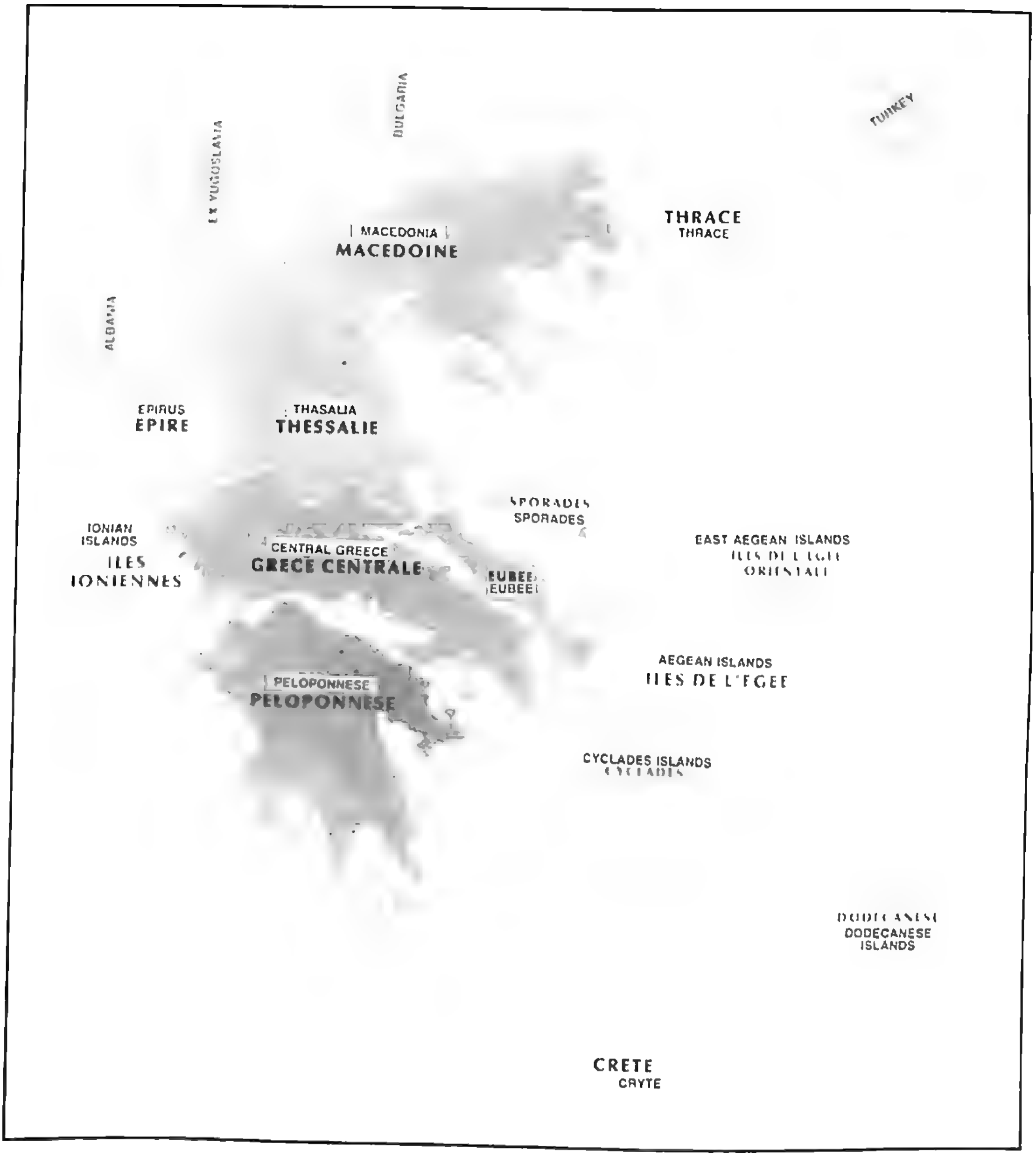
Your Majesty:

I have delayed in responding to your gracious and frank reply to my letter of last spring because I first wished to be certain of the action of our Congress regarding appropriations for Greece and a decision to go forward with the European Recovery Plan. Also, I wished to have some indication of the first results of the initial effort now in progress. Fortunately Congress granted us the necessary funds for the ensuing fiscal year and confirmed the Recovery Program; and the opening campaign appears to have gone favorably.

Manuscript letter from General Marshall, State Secretary of the United States of America, to Queen Frederica of Greece.



Map of Greece indicating the available roads at the time of the Creation of the Paedopolis by Their Majesties' Fund.



Map of the various provinces of Greece and the Frontiers Nations.

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INDEX TWO

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Above: London 1969. The author, Lilika Papanicolaou, and her husband, Sophocles Papanicolaou, K.C.V.O.

Below: Madrid 1981. Queen Sophia of Spain (daughter of Queen Frederica), Lilika Papanicolaou, Sophocles Papanicolaou and the art historian who edited and compiled this book, Dame Françoise Tempra.

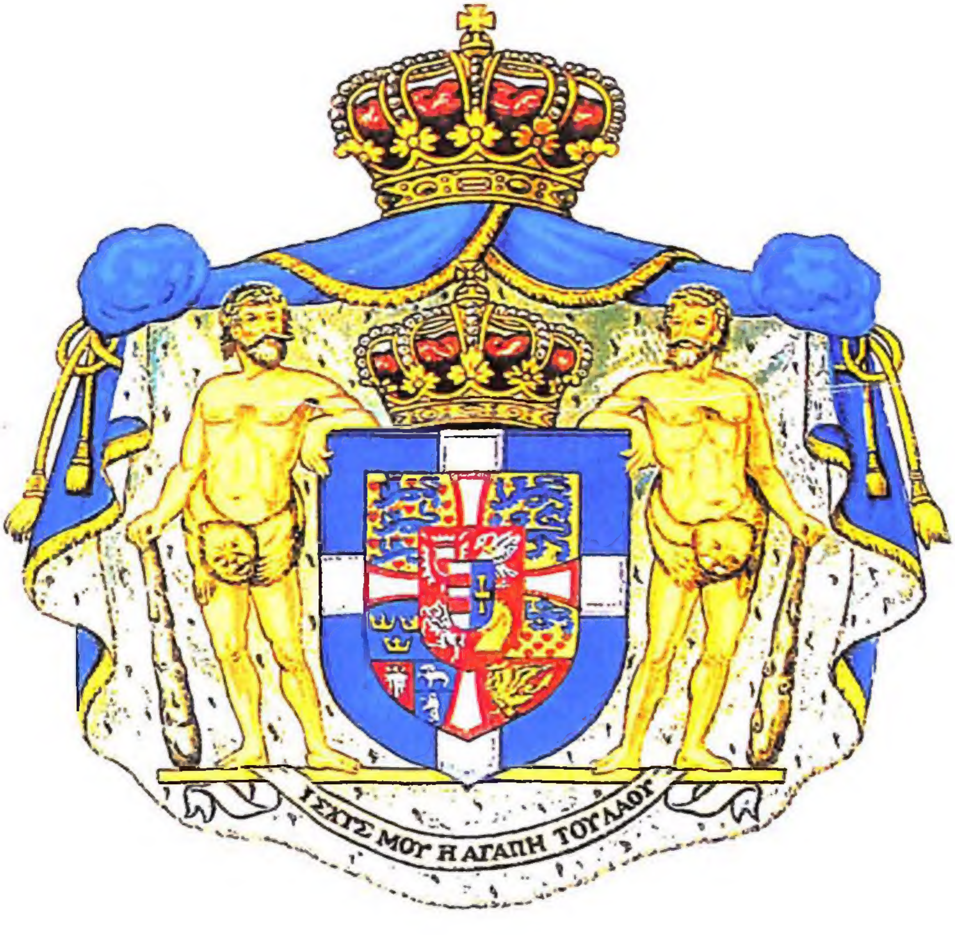


Born in 1912, Sophocles Papanicolaou served the Greek Monarchy as Economic Adviser and Keeper of the Privy Purse under the three last sovereigns – King George II (1890–1947, best man at Lilika and Sophocles's wedding in 1945), King Paul I (1901–1964, husband of Queen Frederica) and King Constantine (b. 1940) – from 1935 to his death in 1990, both in Greece and in exile.

Lilika, his wife (b. 1923 – see biographical notes in the book), a famous pioneer in "Space" paintings (her works can be found in 18 museums and public collections world-wide) a philosopher and a poet (2 poetry volumes published), followed her husband and the Royal Court of Greece, and its sovereigns, wherever war and peace might find them.

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ΙΣΧΥΣ ΜΟΥ Η ΑΓΑΠΗ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΟΥ